

Hafa Adai!

BOE skeptical about PSS' list of 'essential' employees. **PAGE 5**
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FOR ALLEGEDLY FAILING TO PAY \$40M IN CBF

CCC complaint filed vs IPI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

» **IPI admits inability to contribute to CBF at this time, asks to push back payments**

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Charlie Atalig has filed a complaint before the CCC against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for allegedly fail-

ing to contribute \$40 million in community benefit fund money in 2018 and 2019 as required by the Casino License Agreement.

See CCC on **Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

■ **'Is IPI broke?' PAGE 3**

IPI fails to pay \$122.45K in due sanction and costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC informed the federal court yesterday that

the company could still not pay the \$122,449 in sanctions and costs that are due in connection with a pending lawsuit filed by seven for-

See IPI on **Page 1**

1 passenger at quarantine site tests positive

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

One additional person has been recently confirmed to have contracted COVID-19,

bringing CNMI's confirmed case count to 28 since March 28, 2020.

The individual is an asymptomatic.

See **POSITIVE** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, June 8, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	179	0	179
Recovered	162	1	163
Active	12	-1	11
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	7,765		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	27	1	28
Recovered	18	1	19
Active	7	1	7
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	7,241		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

No new COVID-19 cases were reported in Guam from June 5 to June 7. The CNMI's cumulative number of persons tested remains the same as of 5pm.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

With recovery of last case, NZ has eradicated virus

By **NICK PERRY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand appears to have completely eradicated the coronavirus—at least for now—after health

See **VIRUS** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



NMC GRADUATION

The Northern Marianas College graduated one of its largest classes last week. The graduation has been postponed, but the college commemorated the achievement of students by releasing a video composed of the graduates' photos, the degrees and honors that they earned, and messages from local leaders. Here, from left are NMC graduates Margie Camu and Laarni Zapanta. NMC postponed its in-person graduation ceremony to later in December

NMC

INSIDE



LOCAL

COTA gives a glimpse of what it does to help contain coronavirus infections in the CNMI.

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YOUNGSTYLE

YoungStyle's Interview of the Month is with Mr. Adventure himself, Vlad Melnik.

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LIFE & STYLE

Author J.K. Rowling is facing backlash after her series of tweets about transgender people.

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Local

Camacho: This is a unified front-line effort

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority gave a glimpse of what it does to help the CNMI government's effort to contain any coronavirus infections in the CNMI as the primary transporter of people intended for quarantine or isolation.

Last Saturday at 8am, COTA took the lead in bringing 60-plus passengers who had just arrived from Guam aboard a United Airlines flight to the quarantine site at the Pacific Islands Club. For arriving passengers, you go straight into quarantine and on the fifth day you have the option to get tested or just stay the entire 14-day incubation period.

COTA executive director Alfreda Camacho said they use a total of 18 buses in all: 13 buses for passengers and five for just in case. The number of passengers aboard the United Airlines flight will determine how many buses are needed for transportation and how many COTA personnel will be needed.

"We know, at the latest,



Personnel of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority assist the 60-plus passengers who arrived from Guam as they get on the COTA buses at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport tarmac last June 6 at 8am.

JUSTINE NAUTA

around 6:30am to 7am [how many passengers there will be] and then that's when we can go ahead and plan out how many drivers and vehicles we're doing to need," said Camacho. A source said that there were about 67 passengers that arrived last June 6.

Camacho said that COTA's main role is transportation. COTA's personnel are equipped with the proper personal protective equipment

such as gowns, gloves, and masks. Roughly 20 COTA personnel are mobilized. "We are all fitted with our proper PPEs, to make sure that we conduct this process safely, smoothly, and to help protect the community," said Camacho.

From the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the passengers are first brought to PIC, then the empty buses go to the Alternative Care Site at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe

to get decontaminated on the inside and outside before and after every transport.

Camacho said it's a collaborative effort that involves not just COTA but also the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Division of Custom Service and DOC's K9 unit, the Division of Customs, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Department of Pub-

lic Safety, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Department of Corrections.

"This is a unified front-line effort, and if I missed anyone, I apologize," said Camacho. "We thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this time because, in the end, we're all in this together, and we want to thank the community, for supporting all of us here today," she said.

Robert Mojica, DFEMS public information officer, said that every passenger goes through a health screening upon arriving at PIC Saipan, then the passenger will be given a room where they will undergo the mandatory five-day quarantine. On the sixth day, the passenger has the option of getting tested for COVID-19.

If the passenger gets tested, they will wait until their results come back and, if it's negative, they will be released. If a passenger doesn't want to get tested, they will continue with their quarantine until the 14th day, which is the recommended quarantine term of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

When asked about how it feels to be on the front-line, Mojica said he tries to make a difference in everything he does. "I try to make everything I do a difference, make it better as much as I can, and whatever we can do to just help out and make Saipan safer, we're here for it," said Mojica.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 27 cases, with 18 recoveries, two deaths, and seven active cases.

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POINTS OF SAFETY

CLUB 88

The Best Little Gaming Club in Saipan

We are eagerly awaiting the moment that we can reopen. We want to assure you that our top priority is to protect you as well as our team members.

Upon reopening, we are implementing the following measures to ensure the safest possible environment:

- TEMPERATURE CHECKS FOR EMPLOYEES AND GUESTS**
Before entering the building, employees and guests will have their temperatures checked. We ask guests and employees to stay at home if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been around someone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- MANDATORY MASKS & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**
Employees will be required to wear an approved mask while on property. Guests are strongly encouraged to wear masks as well. Gloves will continue to be worn by employees who require them to do their jobs.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING**
We will implement 6-foot physical distancing policies throughout the casino with floor guides to assist and remind our guests. Slot machines, table games, and restaurant seating will be configured to allow for social distancing.
- ENHANCED SANITATION**
Guests will have easy access to hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes throughout the property.
- NIGHTLY DEEP CLEANING**
We will close our property nightly for deep cleaning and thorough sanitation.
- ENHANCED CLEANING**
Although our cleaning protocols have always been important, we will increase the amount of routine cleaning and disinfecting, with a focus on high-traffic areas.
- FREQUENT HAND WASHING**
When visiting our property, we encourage our guests to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

'Is IPI broke?'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

That was the blunt question of Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) at a joint hearing of the House of Representatives Committee on Gaming and the Senate Committee on Cannabis & Gaming last week, during questioning of the Commonwealth Casino Commission. This come soon after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cut the casino licensee's power supply at the hotel casino in Garapan and at other housing properties last month.

This is on top of the back-to-back cases filed by vendors against the IPI, among other cases, including the unanswered question as to where the community benefit fund the casino owes the CNMI people has gone.

In his response, CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said, "As we speak today, the answer to you is, yes, they are, if you're talking about today. I do not see the revenue there to pay the obligation."

As for the actual figures in terms of IPI's finances, CCC executive director Charlie Atalig said they are restricted, under CMC Section 2314, from disclosing that information. "It is a three-year felony for us to provide confidential information that we're restricted. I would recommend maybe changing the law to allow us to provide that information," he added.

Access to \$500M

Deleon Guerrero said that CCC has been "very concerned since Day 1" about the financial suitability of IPI.

"When we look at the actual License Agreement, I do not see the actual financial statement that the Lottery Commission [received], when they granted the license to IPI. Any financial statement that proves that they are financially, and at that time, suitable, to launch a \$2-billion investment or construct 2,000 new rooms," he said.

The picture is different now, Deleon Guerrero said.

IPI has access to \$500 million from Japanese investors, which he said the commission has reviewed, and deemed to be more than enough to see that the facility gets completed.

"Of that, I believe \$165 million has already been dispersed. So again, putting aside the community benefit fund, it is our opinion, that if that loan facility were to proceed, and I understand there's some problem right now with the COVID-19 pandemic and the remaining balance, it is our position that the owners are still committed to finishing [Impe-

rial Pacific Resort]," he said.

Deleon Guerrero also noted that the licensee has "already spent over \$700 million," that construction has not stopped, and suggested for the lawmakers to go and see what it is currently being done at the construction site. "Based on the loan facility that we have been provided, if they keep the intent and purposes of that particular loan, there's sufficient money there that IPI could actually complete the IPR."

Financial suitability

Aside from their court cases, the casino licensee is due to pay a \$15.5-million license fee on Aug. 12, \$3.1 million in regulatory fee fund, and \$20 million in community benefit fund due in October.

Deleon Guerrero said that the CCC has been assured that the IPI board of directors is aware of those costs, and that, aside from the community benefit fund, they're prepared to make the necessary exclusive license fee and the regulatory fee.

If Aug. 12 comes, and IPI does not pay the license fee, CCC will be mobilizing an investigation to make sure that payment has been made from Hong Kong, and from then, put measures in place, just as the commission has done last year, following a delay in the full payment of the license fee.

Last year, IPI paid the license fee 15 days late from the Aug. 12 cutoff, during which CCC imposed a \$25,000 per day penalty on IPI, totaling \$375,000, which went to the general fund.

As for the community benefit fund, IPI, according to Deleon Guerrero, is approaching it differently because they have taken the position that it was due 60 days after groundbreaking on Phase 1.

"They didn't realize that Amendment No. 5 injected it earlier. They were under the impression that it was due when they do the Marpi. That is an ongoing discussion with them," he said.

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), also questioned IPI's capability to complete the casino hotel in Garapan, and called for the government not to grant it any public land or any other future projects until the casino hotel is done.

"It is a great injustice for them to start another project when that one is not done," Propst said.

CCC executive director Atalig recently filed a complaint with the commission, signed May 28, 2020, to suspend IPI's license and to seek fines for the casino licensee's failure to remit its obligations into the community benefit fund.



Members of the House Committee on Gaming and the Senate Committee on Cannabis & Gaming question the Commonwealth Casino Commission in a joint hearing last Thursday on the financial suitability of casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

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Anne Sanchez is Tinian High's valedictorian

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Forced to do social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School held a virtual and drive-thru graduation ceremony yesterday that saw Anne Francesca Libut Sanchez being recognized as the class valedictorian.

Sanchez was genuinely surprised at being conferred the honor, saying her sole focus wasn't academics so much as her leadership roles in school. "Along with focusing on my academics, I also focused a lot of my time into my leadership positions, my service hours, my after-school activities, so it came as a shock to me to find out that I

was the valedictorian. This revelation made me believe that hard work and effort truly does help you achieve your goals. I know it's been said a million times, but it was the recipe that helped me become the Class of 2020 valedictorian," she said in her valedictory speech.

Sanchez credits her achievement to her friends, classmates, teachers, school administration, club advisors, and her parents and family members.

"For four years, you've all watched me stress about my hours and grades, you've all watched me run around campus juggling my National Honors Society and JROTC responsibilities. You've all watched me grow and

prosper into the person you're seeing right now," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC

From Page 1

Atalig, through assistant attorney general Mike L. Ernest, asked CCC to declare that IPI committed the violations and failed to self-report to CCC all the facts that gave rise to the violations.

In his complaint, Atalig asked the CCC to declare each violation as a major offense and order IPI to pay a fine of \$50,000 per violation, for a total of \$100,000. He also asked the CCC to suspend IPI's license to conduct gaming operations on Saipan until such time that all community benefit fund payments are full paid.

According to Ernest in the complaint, IPI is required by the Casino License Agreement to contribute \$20 million in community benefit fund money toward community benefit programs on or before June 1, 2018, and Oct. 1, 2019. Ernest said Atalig alleges that IPI did not self-report the violations and has not accepted responsibility for the conduct underlying the offenses.

Ernest said that Atalig did consider mitigating factors, such as IPI's business being harmed by a recent super typhoon and the coronavirus pandemic, but notes that the failure to fully contribute to the CBF happened even before the pandemic.

Ernest said the executive director believes, though, that the violations do not warrant revoking the casino license agreement.

When asked for comments Sunday, IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, said the company finds itself unable to infuse money to the community benefit fund at this time and hopes that the Lottery Commission will agree to amend the license to push back the time to pay into the fund.

Dotts said IPI has paid over \$300 million in taxes since starting its business, has helped create jobs for many residents, and has helped the growth of the tourism industry to the CNMI.

"Now IPI needs the help of the CNMI," he said, adding that if the Lottery Commission agrees to amend the license to push back the community benefit fund payments, that

should resolve Atalig's complaint.

Dotts said IPI has been having significant and mounting financial problems dating back to when its contractor, MCC International, abandoned the construction project and fled the island. Since that date, IPI has had unexpected and enormous construction costs, he said. Two super typhoons—Soude-lor and Yutu—have also hit Saipan, disrupting operations and construction. He said federal laws also changed regarding CW workers and H-2B workers, making it harder to bring in the workers needed and further driving up the costs. Dotts said the Chinese economy has also retracted, meaning tourism has dropped, and then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and shut down the casino.

As a result of all these problems—that were all outside IPI's control and that no one saw coming—IPI has ended up spending over \$900 million on a project that was projected to cost \$500 million, he added.

Since mid-March, the casino has been closed, producing no income.

POSITIVE

From Page 1

tomatic 34-year-old male and is not a resident of the CNMI. As a passenger of yesterday's United Airlines flight, he was placed under quarantine and his specimen was collected while in quarantine, which was identified as positive for the virus, which causes the disease COVID-19, according to a statement from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday.

So far, of the 28 confirmed cases in the CNMI, five were identified through testing at the quarantine site. The recent cases, identified through the arrival screening and quarantine process required for all incoming international passengers, highlights the value of this border containment effort. Combined with immediate contact tracing, these interventions are key in minimizing the risk of exposure for COVID-19 to the community, the statement adds.

The CNMI Community Vulnerability Level remains at YELLOW because of a greater number of negative results among an increasing number of residents being tested.

Ribbon cutting for ACS soon

After weeks of pushing back the target date to unveil the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, Warren Villagomez, who chairs the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, said that the target date for a

ribbon-cutting ceremony will be announced soon.

Villagomez said that they will be determining and coming up with a set date for the ribbon-cutting ceremony in a few days, just as soon as the contractor is done with the final stage of the process, which is making sure that everything is in place.

"The contractor is finishing up everything that needs to close out this Friday," he said. The ACS now has 90% of the equipment that's required at the facility.

Villagomez earlier said that they want to make sure that all the equipment and the standard of care will not be compromised once the ACS is opened.

Additionally, contracts for the two quarantine sites—Kanoa Resort and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan—are nearing expiration. Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, said that they will determine within the next few days whether the facilities are still needed to serve as quarantine sites.

"The governor's directive on the mandatory quarantine is going to be addressed," said Guerrero, "on how we continue, or if there're any changes to that, that will determine whether we still need these facilities to serve as quarantine sites."

False positive results

When it comes to knowing your test results for COVID-19, the ideal scenario is to have an accurate result, but a variety of factors can come into play and that's when a false positive

result come in.

According to Esther Muña, chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., a false positive means that the test shows a positive result, but in reality it should be a negative result. This means that a patient may be told that they have COVID-19 but they actually do not have it.

In some cases where a person tests positive for COVID-19, they will be retested to confirm their results. According to press secretary Kevin Bautista if one platform shows a positive result, CHCC will use a second platform to confirm the results of the specimen.

Muña said that a false positive could be from many factors, including sample tests that may have been contaminated, so this is why retesting is necessary.

"As this virus continues to evolve...it's essential that, just because you...tested negative...you still need to be mindful that, at some point, the virus [could] show up," said Muña.

Bautista stated that the most used testing platforms is the Abbott 7500 and the GeneXpert.

To date, the CNMI has 27 confirmed cases, with 19 recoveries, two deaths, and six active cases.

COVID-19 in Guam

As of 5pm yesterday, there were no updates on specimens that were collected in Guam.

To date, Guam has 179 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 163 released from isolation, and 11 active cases.

IPI

From Page 1

mer workers.

IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, submitted before the U.S. District Court for the NMI a certification about its failure to pay the sanctions and costs, in response to Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglo-na's order on Friday directing the company to report to the court yesterday, Monday on the status of its payment. The sanctions and costs were due last Friday.

In his declaration yesterday, Dotts said IPI wants to be given 60 more days to pay. He pointed out that IPI's casino has been closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has no income. Right now, the company is reportedly subsisting on funds coming from its parent company in Hong Kong. Dotts said that IPI's parent company has been funding payroll and some other costs, but has not indicated a willingness to pay the costs associated with this case at this time.

He said the pandemic has also affected China where IPI's parent company is based and that funding even just payroll has been difficult for the parent company. He said he has been

working with IPI to try to arrange payment on a daily basis. Dotts said that he was informed last Saturday that payments might be made but then received the "unfortunate news" last Sunday that the sanctions and costs could still not be paid.

The plaintiffs, who are now based in China, are suing IPI and its contractor MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. and subcontractor Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan.

The sanctions and costs are related to the case filed by seven former workers, who are suing IPI for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The plaintiffs alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI, through counsel, said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

VIRUS

From Page 1

officials said Monday the last known infected person had recovered.

The announcement was greeted with joy around the country and means the nation of 5 million people will be among the first to welcome throngs of fans back into sports stadiums, embrace crowded concerts and remove seating restrictions from flights.

It has been 17 days since the last new case was reported, during which time an additional 40,000 people have been tested, bringing the total number tested to about 300,000. Monday marked the first time since late February there have been no active cases.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she was confident New Zealand had halted the spread of the virus but it still must be prepared for more.

"We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now, but elimination is not a point in time, it is a sustained effort," she said at a news conference. "We almost certainly will see cases here again, and I do want to say that again, we will almost certainly see cases here again, and that is not a sign that we have failed, it is a reality of this virus. But if and when that occurs we have to make sure—and we are—that we are prepared."

More cases are likely to be imported as people enter the country. For now, the border remains shut to all but citizens and residents, with some limited exceptions. Everybody who

does enter has to go into quarantine.

Ardern announced that the Cabinet had agreed to remove almost all remaining virus restrictions from midnight, with the exception of the border strictures.

"We can hold public events without limitations. Private events such as weddings, functions and funerals without limitations," Ardern said. "Retail is back without limitations. Hospitality is back without limitations. Public transport and travel across the country is fully opened."

Experts say a number of factors have helped New Zealand wipe out the disease. Its isolated location in the South Pacific gave it vital time to see the devastating spread of the virus in other countries. Ardern also acted decisively by imposing a strict lockdown early in the outbreak.

She said her government's focus will be on the country's borders, where isolation and quarantine will continue.

Just over 1,500 people contracted the virus in New Zealand, including 22 who died.

Eliminating the virus won't end the economic pain for the country. Thousands of people have lost their jobs. The tourism industry, which accounts for about 10% of the economy, has been particularly hard hit.

But Monday was a time of celebration for many. Ardern said that when she heard there were no more active cases, she did a little dance in her living room in front of her daughter Neve, who turns 2 this month. Ardern said the toddler had no idea what was going on but was happy to join her.

Rota High sees 100% graduation rate in senior class

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic hitting the CNMI, the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School saw a 100% graduation rate among its seniors this school year 2019-2020.

According to RHI High School principal Tanya King, she credits the 100% graduation rate to teachers and staff who went above and beyond their scope of work to help the seniors despite the unprecedented crisis. "We extend our profound appreciation to the RHI faculty and staff whose commitment and dedication to our students both inside and outside the classroom exem-

plifies 'Students will always be first,'" she said.

RHI High School held a motorcade graduation ceremony last Friday to bid farewell to 34 of their graduating seniors.

In her message to the Class of 2020, King said this year's graduating class is special because they're the class who dared to be different. "Little did you realize that when you deliberated and finalized your theme, did you know that that is exactly what you will be, the graduating class who will 'dare to be different', because that is what we need right now. You are the young adults who will address issues that need solutions that dare to be different. The world has changed in a

moment and you and your generation are our best hope for a better tomorrow. You have been awesome for the last four years. Now is the time for you to be extraordinary," she said.

This year's valedictorian, Ivany Maratita Manglona, said that, although school ending so abruptly was unexpected and their class lost the opportunity to make more memories together, their graduation is a memory that will also go down in history.

"We are making a memory today with us being here and graduating despite the circumstances we are facing right now. We may not experience a traditional graduation but we are witnessing a change right be-

fore our eyes. For the first time in what feels like forever, people are not alone. We all have been through a momentous journey that tested our strength and friendship," she said.

Salutatorian Junice Dawn Masga encouraged her classmates to be strong determined leaders. "I've envisioned myself here today, but I have never thought that I would make it here, standing in front of the Class of 2020. Each and every one of us has the potential to achieve their own dreams because I have known the Class of 2020 to be strong and determined leaders," she said.

The following are the rest of the awards during the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High

School graduation:

Ivany Manglona: Valedictorian, Board of Education Award, top honor award, Presidential award Gold, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Mayor's Award, OFEGRA, Governor's Award

Junice Masga: Salutatorian, Commissioner of Education award, top honor, Presidential Award Gold

Virginia Manglona: Principal's award, Presidential Award Silver

Dawno Jade Manglona Agbayani: Top honor, Presidential Award Gold, Social Studies

Jonovan Vicente Cabrera Lizama: Top honor, Presidential Award Gold

Onria Nicole Atalig: Top

honor, Presidential Award Gold
Blessylou Atalig Manglona: Presidential Award Silver, Physical Education

Gene Bernard Ramos Jr.: Presidential Award Silver, Elective

Ralph Joshua Asuncion Ancaya: Presidential Award Silver

Marjorie Japor Banaag: Presidential Award Silver

Klowee Sablan Fujihira: Presidential Award Silver

Angelo Seloterio Lucero: Presidential Award Silver

Prinzes Belle Santos Manglona: Presidential Award Silver

Alejo Rosario Mendiola Jr. IV: Presidential Award Silver

Valeria Genelaso Myers: Science/World Language

Victor Edgar Sancho Villamor: World Language

BOE skeptical about PSS' list of essential employees

The Public School System will be exempting both principals and vice principals from the next batch of furloughs because they are considered "essential" as classes prepare for the new school year and campuses reopen CNMI-wide. Board of Education members are, however, skeptical about this decision, saying that employees who are "essential" to the reopening of classes are maintenance, custodians, and administrative support staff and they should be considered

for reinstatement.

During a special board meeting last week, BOE vice chair Herman Atalig was the first to raise the question regarding what principals and vice principals will do to prepare campuses. "You're right about preparation, but when are you going to 'unfurlough' staff that you actually need, like maintenance and custodians and all the other staff the principals are going to need in order for this to be accomplished? Unless you have

other funding to contract other vendors to do that," he said.

BOE member Marylou Ada pointed out that principals and vice principals are not intimately involved in preparing campuses, that the work they do on campus during summer can be done by support staff who are paid less.

"What are they doing in the schools? Are they intimately involved in trying to set up this scenario? I cannot see them doing this without the essential staff like main-

tenance. I don't see the need for both principals and vice principals. We're just incurring more expenses at this time. Why do we need to put a principal, who is making \$97,000, there, to do this work? Why are the principals and vice principals being 'unfurloughed'? Are they doing all this work?" she asked.

Board member Andrew Orsini said that PSS needs to save as much money as possible for the next fiscal year since they are only expecting a budget

of less than \$20 million. "I agree with the vice chair. I'm skeptical with what's going on right now also because there [are] no students. ... We're trying to cut down costs and it just doesn't make sense to have both principals and vice principals at the schools right now," he said.

According to Lucretia Borja, PSS Human Resources director, there were 44 individuals who were originally on the next batch of furloughs. However, PSS decided to remove principals, vice principals, and network and tech staff from

that list, leaving 25 additional furloughed employees come June 15.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada explained that principals are needed on campus during this time is to ensure that offices are open for families who need student documents since there will be a lot of changes.

Ada added that vice principals also need to be on campus to oversee the revamping of the campuses since they are most familiar with school structures. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 9:30AM.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, the CRM Board meeting will be conducted via video conference through Google Meet (meeting code: oub-akec-uev) or join via telephone by dialing +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 963 732 939 3761# or visit dcrm.gov.mp for more information.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of December 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2020-X-030

Project: AGAPE SCHOOL & DORMITORY BUILDING PROJECT

Calvary International Mission is proposing to construct a three story building with a basement. The building consists of 32 rooms, 18-room dormitories, 20 bathrooms, 4 boys/girls restrooms, 7 storage rooms, 3 offices, 6 air conditioner rooms, 2 electrical rooms, an athlete area, 2 locker rooms with showers, generator room and storage, and 41 parking stalls with landscaping. The project is situated on 4,890 square meters of land identified as Lot No. 012 D 70 on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

- Agencies' Discussion
- Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.

Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6804 • www.marianas.edu

AMENDMENT #1

Building Demolition Project: Buildings A, A1, B, B1 C, D, E, F, G, H, I, Q, R & S

INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 20-0002

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the building demolition project at the NMC Saipan campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing May 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 9:00 am. Attendance is strongly recommended. NMC continues to practice social distancing due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. The pre-bid conference and virtual tour will take place through video conference technology, Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID No.: 928 5800 5961

Electronic Bid submissions:
NMCIFB20-0002@marianas.edu

Due Date/Time: 10:00 am, June 19, 2020, Chamorro, Standard Time (ChST).

Hard copies Bid submissions:
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. O, As Terlaje Campus
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, June 19, 2020, (ChST).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through US Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institution of Higher Education Grant, award no. P938T190005. Provisions of Public Law 15-95 as amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference, are not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

Grant writing training for executive line agencies

Over 30 CNMI government employees from executive line departments and agencies took part in a two-day grant writing workshop facilitated by the CNMI Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from May 28 to 29, 2020.

The workshop was aimed at assisting central government agencies with writing a successful grant proposal. Writing techniques, content structure, budget preparation, needs assessment, goals and objectives, and basic uploading options were featured at the workshop.

According to Grants Management administrator Epi-phanio E. Cabrera Jr., the goal of the workshop is to write a

well-thought out proposal and to have it uploaded to grants.gov under the Department of the Interior's Technical Assistance Program and Maintenance Assistance Program.

Topics proposed by participants vary depending on agency needs, but many were focused on enabling program requirements, COVID-19 response, and restoring professional capacities within government services.

"As a result of the training, a total of 23 proposals were uploaded as of this past Tuesday, amounting to \$4,201,780 in promising competitive discretionary grant proposals," said Cabrera.

Approximately \$2.3 million is awarded annually to the



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The CNMI Office of Grants Management holds a grant writing workshop for over 30 CNMI government employees at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from May 28 to 29, 2020.

CNMI from the Office of Insular Affairs under their TAP and MAP grant programs. To date, the CNMI has received approximately \$900,000 from the TAP and MAP program for fiscal year 2020. Results of participant proposals are ex-

pected by July 1, 2020.

"With over \$620 billion available in grant funding opportunities, the CNMI only receives about \$120 million annually. This does not include the funds expedited from disaster and pandemic

vive the economic crisis arising from the pandemic. Under the HEROES Act, qualified American citizens will receive a second round of stimulus checks—\$1,200 for individuals and \$2,400 for joint returns and another \$1,200 for every dependent, for a maximum of \$3,600. The Act will also would apply to immigrants that were denied under the CARES Act. A "Heroes Fund" of \$200 billion is allotted for essential workers.

To date, 40 million Americans in the U.S. mainland are unemployed and many companies, big and small, have suffered from bankruptcies and foreclosures. According to the CNMI Department of Labor, close to 10,000 individuals in the CNMI are expected to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

The Heroes Act bill is expected to move into action at the U.S. Senate floor in July. *(Bea Cabrera)*

lems. With the HEROES Act, about \$3 billion is allotted for the Marianas that should get government services, schools and our hospital running. ... Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña could probably build the laboratory that she wants," he said. "The HEROES Act will put more people in business and put more money in people's pockets. So before businesses open, before people can go back to work, people can buy what they need for themselves and for their families," he said.

The HEROES Act that recently passed the House, is another COVID19 relief package that consists of \$3 trillion in economic aid for Americans who have suffered economically as a result of the pandemic. The HEROES Act, like the CARES Act, is intended to help American families sur-

crisis in the Marianas, it is equally important to respond to economic recovery as well.

That's what the U.S. House of Representatives seeks to do with a proposed bill called the HEROES Act, said Sablan. "Congress has already passed more relief to communities as the nation face many prob-

Kilili: \$3B proposed for the Marianas

Speaking at the virtual general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last week, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that while it was important to respond to the emergency that the COVID-19 pandemic brought in terms of health and economic



NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Coconut Scanning Services, Inc.
A CNMI Corporation,
was dissolved on April 30, 2020.

Any creditor and person with an outstanding claim against the corporation is requested to notify the corporate office within 30 days of the date of the last publication.

Coconut Scanning Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 5525
Saipan, MP 96950

The Management


Notice of Availability of the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS


The U.S. Navy has completed a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing training and testing activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The completion of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS follows years of research, analysis, stakeholder engagement, and public involvement.

Proposed Action

The Navy is proposing to continue training and testing activities within the Study Area at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla. Proposed activities are generally consistent with previously analyzed activities and are similar to those that have occurred in the Study Area for decades.

The Proposed Action is needed to ensure the Navy, other U.S. military services, and the U.S. Coast Guard meet their respective missions, which for the Navy is to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Public Involvement

The Navy is committed to keeping the public informed. The Navy obtained public input at several stages and held four public meetings throughout the Mariana Islands. The Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS includes responses to public comments received during the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act regulations, Navy will wait 30 days after publication of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS before making a final decision on the action.

Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS

The Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS is available to the public beginning June 5, 2020. You can access the document in several ways:

- Visit www.MITT-EIS.com
- Contact: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134
- View the document at these locations:

University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, or Rota Public Library. Please check with libraries regarding hours of operation and the availability of the document.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Wanted Floral Arrangements Retail Purchaser/Retailer

- Must be able to show experience selecting, purchasing and arranging shipment of fine ceramics from SE Asia
- Must be able to grow, arrange, and care for flowers and living plants
- Must have at least 6 months experience
- Must be fluent in English, preferably able to speak Vietnamese, or Thai.
- ONLY US residents are eligible to apply.

Please call 256-1041 after 5:00pm to apply.

supplements— that number is three times higher or more. We definitely need more grant writers in our government's professional pool, and the governor and lieutenant governor are encouraging the training and development of grant writers as we deal with budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Cabrera.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are encouraging more agencies to write for more federal dollars, especially during these tough economic times.

"Gov. Torres has committed to hiring more grants writers as more federal dollars are expected to be made available to the CNMI in the near future, but it would require a complete proposal before the grant award is officially received," added Cabrera.

"We are working hard as a government to develop our grant-writing capacity. OGM cannot do this alone, and all our departments and agencies need to do their part, es-

pecially in corralling in new federal dollars and managing them accordingly. Lt. Gov. Palacios and I are committing to accountability of federal funds and grants management," said Torres. "We thank OGM, administrator Epi, and his team for putting the training together and for all the government employees that participated, including Tinian and Rota municipal staff via GoogleMeet."

Cabrera anticipates more targeted grant writing and compliance workshops in the near future, especially from grant opportunities stemming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Economic Development Administration. OGM intends to invite more participants, including those from autonomous agencies, in future workshops.

The event also featured a guest presenter from the Office of Insular Affairs: CNMI and Guam field representative Harry S. Blanco, who provided an overview of the TAP, MAP, and Energizing Insular Communities Grant funding programs. *(PR)*

JKPL open for appointment only and updates hours of operation



The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library facility will continue to open for limited public services by appointment only to ensure health and safety of our patrons.

Effective today, June 9, 2020, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library temporary summer hours of operation will be from Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30am to 4:30pm; Friday and Saturday from 9:30am to 12pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays.

In order to alleviate traffic concerns, congregating of our patrons, and continue safe- distancing best practices, patrons are asked to call (670)

235-7322/7323 (READ) to schedule their visit by appointment only.

This includes general circulation services (ex. book check-out, library card-sign up, and payments) and limited computer access to 45 minutes per visit. Curbside service will continue to be provided for those who prefer to pick up their materials outside of the library. All materials should be returned in the book drop that is located outside of the main entrance as they will be placed in a quarantine location for a week prior to returning to regular shelves for circulation. *(PR)*


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT


INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DLNR-077 (A-B) - CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2020 TIME 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) USED CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.



****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT


INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DCCA/CCDF-078

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN GENERATORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA


/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

‘Black Lives Matter’


PHOTOS By KRIZEL TUAZON



People of all colors and persuasions came together Friday afternoon to participate in a “Black Lives Matter” demonstration along the intersection of San Jose and Beach Road, in a show of support for the many demonstrations taking place in many parts of the United States that are pressing for racial equality and calling for an end to police brutality.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcpib.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcpib.net



Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 8:00a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor’s Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

IX.

X.

XI.

XII.

XIII.

XIV.

Meeting Call to Order

Determination of Quorum

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Review and Adoption of Minutes – (January 23, 2020)

Public Comments

Chairman’s Report

Director’s Report

Investigator’s Report

Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature

Old Business

New Business

Applications for Board’s Review

Miscellaneous Business

Announcements

1. Office Operations during COVID-19 lockdown

2. ASC Preliminary Compliance Review of the CNMI Appraiser Regulatory Program

3. Financial Report – 3rd Quarter

4. Upcoming Council Meetings:

• 2020 NCARB Annual Business Virtual Meeting – June 20, 2020 (5am-9am)

• 2020 NCEES Annual Business Meeting – Chicago, IL – August 26-29, 2020

• Complaints Received – information only

• Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.

1.) Legal Services Request #20-120

• Letter from David S. Demapan

• Next Meeting Date

• Adjournment of Meeting

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

In memorial, 'We couldn't breathe': Remembering George Floyd and the progress that must come next

In an emotional and historically significant memorial service in Minneapolis on Thursday, George Floyd was remembered as a loving person who took care of others and generously dispensed caring hugs.

Civil rights icons, elected officials, pro athletes and other celebrities were among those who joined family members to celebrate Floyd's life and grieve for him. The private memorial was held on the campus of North Central University, located about 3 miles from the intersection where the unarmed, handcuffed Floyd died in police custody on Memorial Day.

The soft background music belied the intensity of the feelings expressed. Mourners closed the service by standing in silence and prayer for eight minutes and 46 seconds—the same amount of time that Floyd, 46, was pinned to the ground by police. The death of the African American man ignited demonstrations around the nation and the world.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, longtime civil rights activist and MSNBC host, delivered a powerful eulogy that used what happened to Floyd as a metaphor for conditions faced by African Americans: "What happened to Floyd happened every day. ... We were like George, we couldn't breathe." Sharpton said that neither he nor the Floyd family condone looting or violence. But he added that there is a difference between those "calling for peace and those calling for quiet. You just want us to shut up and suffer in silence."

"We have to stand up in George's name and say, 'Get your knee off our necks,'" Sharpton said. "This is the time for dealing with accountability in the criminal justice system."

Floyd family attorney Benjamin Crump said the "pandemic of racism and discrimination killed George Floyd" and that his death is the moment that gives the "best opportunity in a long time" to reach the ideals on which America was founded.

In that spirit, early in the service North Central President Scott Hagan announced that the Christian school would start a scholarship in Floyd's name dedicated to inspiring young black leaders. He challenged other colleges to do the same.

Thursday's memorial can serve as a healing moment for Minnesota and the rest of a shocked and angry nation, but only if justice and systemic change come next. There's no more time to waste.

(c) 2020 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Record-breaking increase in jobs? Sure, but the economy is still

As much as you might like the sound of "biggest one-month jobs gain ever," it's probably something you never want to hear.

Because when the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a record-setting number of hires, as it did Friday, that's just a hint of light at the end of a really dark tunnel. Although healthy economies produce lots of jobs, the really big gains in employment have been when the economy is clawing back from a deep downturn. Similarly, some of the biggest increases in U.S. gross domestic product have come after big contractions.

So, putting Friday's report in context, it's great to see increased employment in multiple industrial sectors, most notably leisure and hospitality, construction, education and health services, and retail. The one sector that was still shedding jobs at a breakneck pace was government, and, according to BLS Commissioner William W. Beach, that was largely because schools were still shuttered.

But we have a long, long way still to go, with almost 21 million people unemployed (according to the BLS' survey of employers) and 10.6 million more stuck in part-time jobs when they'd rather be working full time. A year ago, those numbers were 5.9 million and 4.3 million, respectively.

Economists had hoped early on that we might see a rapid bounce-back from the contraction. Once we'd vanquished COVID-19, the thinking was, we'd all go back to work and commerce would hum again. But it proved hard to flatten the curve of the pandemic—stupid coronavirus!—and governments relied for weeks on blunt-force solutions like broad stay-at-home orders, unable to pull together the testing, contact tracing and quarantining resources necessary for a more targeted approach. The wounds to businesses and their employees have been deep.

States started lifting their pandemic-related restrictions in early May, generating a fair amount of hand-wringing by public health experts and pundits like me. And some of those states have seen their COVID-19 caseloads increase as a result. But as Friday's report shows, the country also saw a sharp uptick in employment.

Can it continue? One obvious factor is persistent spreading of the coronavirus. If the reopening of stores and offices or the mass demonstrations protesting George Floyd's death in police custody in Minneapolis prompt widespread and significant outbreaks, states could reimpose restrictions on workplaces and we'd be contracting again.

One less obvious factor is the permanent changes wrought by the pandemic. After examining current business survey data and the results of past recessions, researchers at the University of Chicago concluded that 42% of the short-term job losses will be-

By **JON HEALEY**
Los Angeles Times

Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.



come lasting ones. "For many firms, cash-flow problems today will become insolvencies in the future, and 'temporary' layoffs will become permanent," the authors wrote. "The longer it takes to bring the economy back on line, the larger the fraction of recent layoffs that will turn out to be permanent."

The authors cited three broad factors for the long-term losses: the pandemic is changing the demand for goods and services, some companies are simply too weak to survive the shock and concerns about infection are causing changes in how many companies do business. The infection concerns are likely to endure for a while, the authors wrote. "The potential for customer (and employee) concerns about infectious disease transmission to alter retail formats, restaurant designs, and the delivery of many medical, professional, personal and business services suggest that the reallocation consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to play out for many months and years to come."

"Reallocation consequences" is another way of referring to shifts in hiring and employment that inevitably accompany recessions and recoveries. And they're already underway, with the pandemic causing a boom among retailers and delivery companies that tend to the needs of people sheltering in place, while taking a toll on workers whose jobs could be replaced by technology. Those reallocations could be reversed post-coronavirus, but if the long-term result is a move from higher-paying jobs in, say, manufacturing and professional services to lower-paying jobs in retail and hospitality, that's not a good thing. On the other hand, if laid-off workers retrain and acquire new and more valuable skills, the shift could go in the other direction.

Let's insert the usual caution here: Employment reports are slightly out-of-date snapshots, so it's best to look at the trends they reveal over several months. Friday's report suggests that the U.S. economy has bottomed out and is bouncing back, earlier than many observers expected. Whether the recovery is underway in earnest or May was just a blip will be revealed over the next few months.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Can George Floyd protests become a peaceful American revolution?

Even if you tear it down, they will come. Just 13 hours earlier, a giant crane—deus ex machina, indeed—had airlifted the 2,000-pound likeness of Philadelphia’s nightstick-wielding ex-mayor and top cop Frank Rizzo from its 21-year command post at the Municipal Services Building. The stench of brutal and oppressive policing still hung thick in the muggy air.

And so on late Wednesday afternoon, a window of sunny glare sandwiched between a deadly derecho and a tornado warning, they kept coming to the intersection of 15th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard, even as several thousand were marching elsewhere around the city. They stood in a line that kept growing with signs that read “SAY THEIR NAMES” and “I’m not black but I see you ...” and “Defund Demilitarize Reform #BLM.” On the other side of a barricade was a thin blue line of Philly cops backed by a gaggle of heavily armed tin soldiers of the National Guard, who’d been guarding the Rizzo statue a day earlier and now were defending only a giant void.

Meredith Lowe snapped a picture of the scene, then sat down in the middle of the intersection with her wife, Karen Specht—the fifth straight day they’ve been out demonstrating. “We were waiting for this to happen,” the 32-year-old principal of Philadelphia’s Andrew J. Morrison Elementary School said, of the Rizzo statue. “We think it’s a great first step, and there’s a lot more to do. We believe white supremacy is real, we believe (there is) systematic oppression.”

Moments later, the crowd had swelled to 200 and began to march, past the boarded-up windows along Market Street East, up 9th Street in the heart of Chinatown chanting “Whose streets? Our streets!” and then down Race Street past police headquarters, the Roundhouse. Its brutalist architecture has, to so many, served as a symbol of oppression since Rizzo’s 1960’s heyday, but suddenly it looked very small. As the march crossed the lawn of Independence Mall in the shadow of where the American experiment was fomented and near where Ben Franklin captured lightning, the electricity was all about not knowing where this thing was headed next.

The last two weeks of American history have been truly remarkable. Since the violent Memorial Day death of George Floyd at the knees of four Minneapolis police officers was captured on videotape, Minnesota officials have now arrested all four cops and increased the charges on the most culpable one, while officials from Philadelphia to Richmond, Va., race to yank down statues memorializing racial oppressors that had long seemed immovable objects.

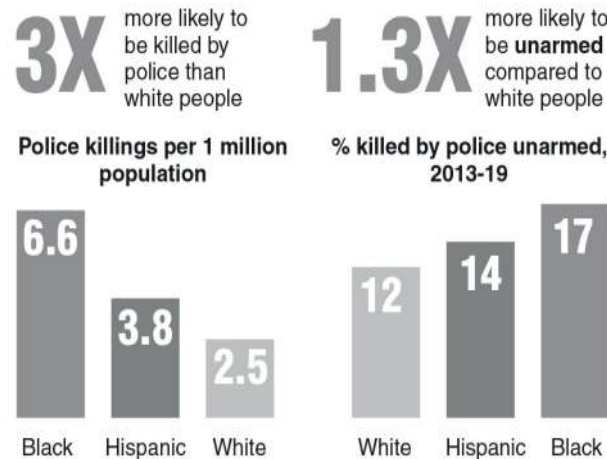
And yet the protests are not fading. Instead, the crowds are growing bigger and bigger, especially as images of fresh police violence against peaceful protesters and journalists have only heightened the contradictions in American society. The loud bangs of looting and vandalism have mostly faded, and as I write this, it is the cadence of nonviolent dissidents—not President Donald Trump’s toy soldiers—that are “dominating the streets.” And not just the usual suspects in Portland, Ore., or Lower Manhattan. As you read this, Americans are protesting in all 50 states, in places like Havre, Mont. (100 showed up, in a town of 9,700), or Columbus, Miss., where a biracial gaggle of a dozen or so people are holding aloft signs that read, “No lives matter until black lives matter.”

But the questions reverberate even more loudly than the chants. Why now, when so many black and brown men and women have been senselessly killed before George Floyd was suffocated? Will the protests lose steam—there’s no evidence of that yet—and if they don’t, where is this all headed? At what point do we acknowledge that while these are the George Floyd protests that they are becoming even more than that, that as the crowds grow bigger and more diverse this is becoming a peaceful revolution in the streets of America? And if it is becoming a revolution, what are the demands?

The thing is, the protests are not new. Ever since thousands of folks left the comfort of home to camp out for the Occupy movement in the fall of 2011, there has been march after march—from Ferguson, Mo., and Black Lives Matter to a massive People’s Climate March to an even more massive Women’s March and Occupy ICE and many more. Yet our elected officials and the mainstream media have done a shameful job in playing deaf before their communities.

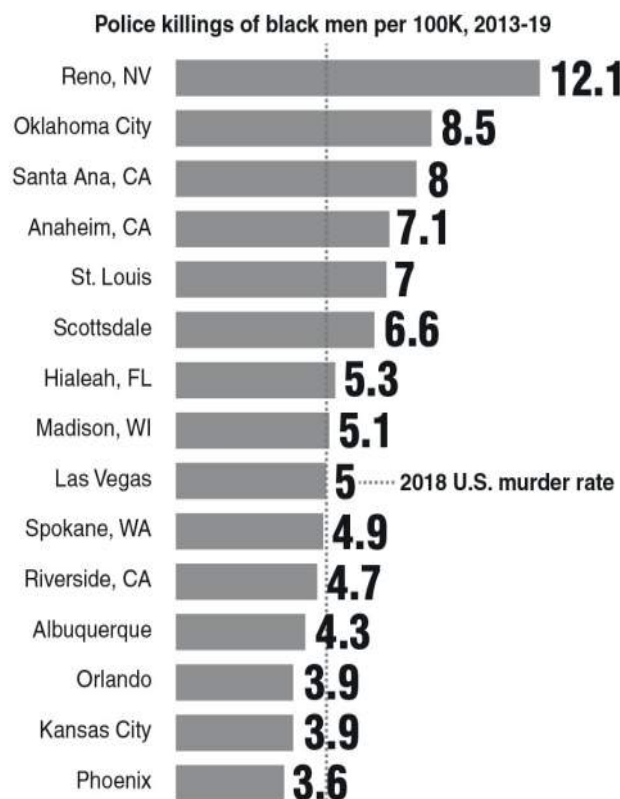
I keep thinking back to one event from just 10 months ago—a nationwide Lights of Liberty protest against the inhumane

The rate African-Americans are killed by the police in the U.S.



Where you live matters

8 of the 100 largest city police departments kill black men at **higher rates** than the U.S. murder rate



Source: mappingpoliceviolence.org
Graphic: Staff, TNS

conditions that the Trump administration inflicts on refugees at the southern border. On short notice, more than 100,000 people held vigils in more than 700 communities in all 50 states. That’s remarkable, and yet the mainstream media ignored it or grossly downplayed it, as it has done with every progressive protest for decades.

Meanwhile, camera crews trip over each other and news editors set aside a corner of the front page any time a couple dozen yahoos with AR-15s slung over their Hawaiian shirts show up at a state capital. There’s a weird confluence of reasons—images of protesters with guns get more clicks than those with candles, and there’s newsroom guilt over a need to amplify right-wing voices that melts away when it’s time to hand the megaphone to black and brown ones.

But the media isn’t the only entrenched institution whose failings have been laid bare. Since Mike Brown was gunned down in Ferguson in August 2014, black folks and their allies have marched and laid down in the street and blocked bridges and after all that, police still kill more than 1,000 people every year in America, no fewer than before. I know one is considered a deluded conspiracy theorist to speak of a “deep state” but what is one to call it when an entrenched network of quasi-fascist police unions and career prosecu-

By **WILL BUNCH**
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Will Bunch is the national opinion columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

tors who celebrate mass incarceration won’t yield to the will of the people?

When I arrived at Dilworth Plaza, I emerged near the Starbucks stand that had been heavily fire-damaged in Saturday’s unrest. It was just four months ago on a frigid February night that I sat in that Starbucks, drinking a venti coffee to prepare to cover a small but spirited protest over Trump’s impeachment acquittal and wondering if change would ever come to America. No one at this week’s protests was condoning destruction, but if a riot is the voice of the unheard, the deafness of the Establishment had been shattering ... until now.

As the crowd on the edge of Philadelphia City Hall grew nearing sundown and two marches merged, I met Jessica Downing, 27, and Joey Clayton. Downing, who is black, and Clayton, who is white, are best friends and co-workers from the Anthropologie store, shuttered for weeks because of the coronavirus. She told me she’d grown up hearing from her parents what it was like to be born when segregation was still legal in America, and the lack of progress had finally pulled her and her sign—“DANGER: Racist Cops/I Can’t Breathe”—and her friend out into the streets.

Like many protests, the demands started simple—arrest the cops who murdered George Floyd—but have swelled into much broader demands for systemic change, even as many protesters are just beginning to have the complicated conversation about what these radical solutions might look like. The scenes of the last three months, with some nurses forced to use plastic garbage bags as protective gear even as police departments stock up with tear gas and rubber bullets, have convinced many that the battleship of a decades-old police state must be turned around.






In Los Angeles, efforts to appease protesters with Mayor Eric Garcetti promising to move \$150 million out of the police budget and into programs for low-income communities have run into the realization that it’s only a fraction of a gob-smacking \$3 billion that America’s second-largest city spends on its cops. Here in Philadelphia, Mayor Kenney’s current budget scheme increases police funding by \$14 million, largely to cover a pay raise, yet would slash police oversight. That’s drawing increased scrutiny—as it should, But too many of these decisions will be made by the generation of politicians who entered public service to get “tough on crime,” and we’re too far into the 2020 cycle to easily replace them with a new batch.

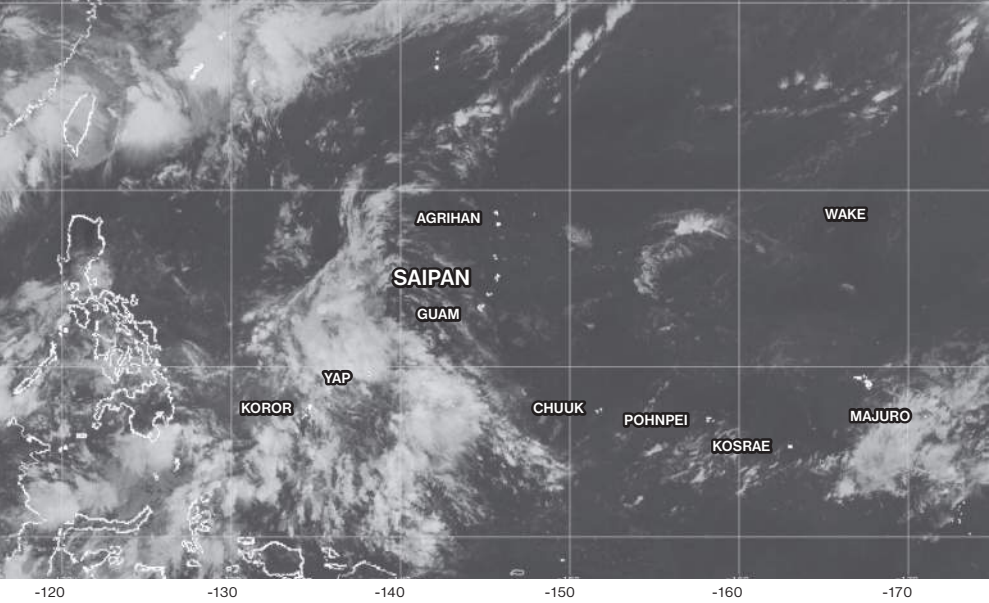
In 1968, after two years of urban riots over so many of the same issues, a more predominantly white and conservative electorate embraced the “law-and-order” politics of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. This is not the same America. We’ve transformed from a nation where a majority of folks blamed the students gunned down at Kent State to one where 64% of Americans are sympathetic to these protests, even after reports of some looting. And yet our current system may be too battered, broken and gridlocked to change—and this terrifies me.

As I write this on Thursday morning, folks are planning to do it all over again in Philly and still marching in the most unexpected places, like from Wayne to Paoli on the comfortably unaffected Philadelphia Main Line. There is no end in sight. Outside City Hall, a 27-year-old black man in a Phillies cap, from the Broad and Olney neighborhood—he didn’t want to give his name—saw my notebook and approached me to say that “the only thing we want is ... peace!”

But how do we get there? He thought for a long time and then said, “When we don’t act like we have races but just one race—the human race,” and then he quickly melted into a rainbow crowd of a couple thousand humans that seemed to only get bigger.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East trade winds and a few showers prevail across the Marianas this morning. A dry weather pattern will persist through much of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- Continue good hand hygiene**
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**
- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:45 AM	10:06 PM
Wednesday	-	9:41 AM	10:53 PM
Thursday	-	10:34 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	-	11:25 AM	-
Saturday	-	12:15 AM	12:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	93° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 43°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
New York	Sunny	84° / 69°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°	
Paris	Rain	66° / 50°	
Busan	Rain	79° / 70°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 70°	
Tokyo	Rain	84° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:39 AM	LOW TIDE	1.43	
8:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94	
4:32 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.18	
11:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.03	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301.2	9:00	9:35	Tues/Fri	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
ROTA TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3101.2	10:00	10:30	Tues/Fri	1208 14:00 14:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily			
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily			
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	1211 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	1212 18:00 18:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily				
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Mr. Adventure: Vlad Melnik



Q: How do you go through isolation with such an athletic build and an adventurous soul?

A: It's not difficult at all, because old habits don't die. Ever since school, I've been well trained. By the age of 16, I had a sports grade in athletics and with a dozen parachute jumps. Real adventures always require being in an excellent physical shape and not only.

Q: What motivates you to move forward with every day? and What gives you energy?

A: My passion for freedom tirelessly moves me forward. Where does my energy come from? hmm.. vodka and caviar (just joking)

Q: You have explored the island up and down, in and out, and probably know the most. What do many people not know about Saipan?

A: I wish they know how beautiful the night at the jungle is. If you never thought about spending a night in the deep jungle, then you should add it to your bucket list right now. Jungle nights can offer you a magical experience. Imagine spending your night in the middle of nature, and there's no place more populated, noisy, and cheerful than being deep in the jungle. The view you will get is incomparable—no other place will fill your heart with more excitement, and a little fear sometimes,

but in a positive way.

Q: What would you call your most mind-blowing findings?

A: When you go into the jungle you never know what you'll find, so all artifacts, relics from war, caves, hidden positions literally completely capture you.

Q: What can inspire people to learn more about the place they live in and their history?

A: I draw my inspiration from my local friends with incredible and inspiring real-life stories. Working with old pre-war and military maps can also serve as an excellent source of inspiration.

Q: What skill do you not have yet and you wished to have it? And what would you do with it once you had it?

A: I'd like to get a helicopter pilot's license and then at dawn land my helicopter in the volcano crater and puff a cigar.

Q: What is the most valuable advice you received from your father?

A: My father taught me many essential life lessons like standing my ground, shoot, fish, see the true beauty of things, but most importantly, be merciful to nature. I really appreciate that.

Q: What are the top 3 things you teach your children?

By **ALEX MEGINO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Alex Megino is a 10th grade student at Kagman High School.



A: Love books, be honest, and keep your nose in the wind.

Q: What is the most important knowledge/quality every father should have in your opinion?

A: Trust your kids more and teach them less

Q: From your point of life and experience, what is the most challenging task? Starting a fire from one match/spark, or to not fall from a cliff when exhausted and your only hope is your hand holding the edge?

A: The wisest thing is to prevent such situations. If you're afraid of getting a rotten apple, don't go to the barrel. Get it off the tree. Right?

THANK YOU

The Saipan Tribune's Youngstyle Section is published with the assistance of the following:

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YUTING CHEN
JAE HOON SON
ERICH BALAJADIA
ABBY DANIELLE CRISOSTOMO
Contributors

Literary Page

Sonder

By ERICH BALAJADIA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Erich Balajadia is a 9th grader at Marianas High School. Balajadia's teacher is Ms. Leila Staffler.

I drive by a couple sitting under a giant advertisement.

The advertisement is bright and shiny and perfect, and the lady displayed in it has airbrushed skin. She's smiling but not with her eyes. She looks young, perfect, and shiny.

The couple is young, perfect, and shiny. The ad shines bright above them, and into the night. They are holding hands. The woman lays her head on the man's shoulder as he stares straight forward.

They're slouching into one another, tired. Their hands and their souls are intertwined. You can tell by the way they're leaning unto each other for support, as if to say I'm here.

A love like that... so strong its palpable.

They probably have an apartment together and a dog. A dog that's old and fat and eats tissue paper they leave on the coffee desk, but they love the dog anyway.

They probably watch Netflix together every night until they fall asleep, holding each other close until the sun peaks through the curtains.

They probably try to cook but always end up just ordering pizza, because the food that they always try to make is disgusting and inedible. And eating pizza for the 4th time this week is just fine, even if they're both lactose intolerant.

They probably both have jobs and today is the only day that their schedule lines up for them, so they went out and walked around town. And they're sitting there, under the bright and shiny ad, in the night, to rest after a long afternoon of drinking in the sun and bubble tea.

They're probably each other's "person." They probably have plans in the future that involve a two kids

and a house and a dog.

Or ... not.

Maybe this is their last night together. Maybe their love is there, but the effort isn't. And even though they're living together... they're bored. This should be exciting right? Moving in together? Living in each other's spaces? Watching the news together, cooking horrible dinners together, doing... everything together... falling into a routine.

So why are they both bored with each other?

Maybe their heartbreak was inevitable. Maybe it was planned out from Day 1, when they met, maybe, in a class. Or maybe they met in a train station, maybe in a book store. Or, at a job that they no longer work at.

Maybe they're here, under the glow of an ad for a perfume, trying to feel the spark they once had. Trying to grasp at that feeling, before the mundanity sunk in.

They turn to look at each other

I'm driving too fast to see their faces.

My two sides

By ABBY DANIELLE CRISOSTOMO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Abby Danielle Crisostomo is a 9th grader at Marianas High School. Crisostomo's teacher is Ms. Leila Staffler.

Pessimism [Pes•si•mism] - Noun

A tendency to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen, a lack of hope or confidence in the future.

"The dispute cast an air of deep pessimism over the future of the peace talks"

To those who deal with my pessimism, truly sorry for my negative thoughts. Constant contradicting realism, thinking that life is an apple that rots.

Sorry for my mindset being so dark, even though I'm outgoing and bright. All my insecurities leave a mark, I wish for optimism so I'll fight.

I know this journey of growth will be hard, this mindset I dealt with for many years. No longer a life that's a broken shard an adventure for a new atmosphere.

I'll push to grow, change and face it head on. Then my pessimism will be long gone.

What happened?

By JAE HOON SON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jae Hoon Son is a 9th grader at Marianas High School. Son's teacher is Ms. Leila Staffler.

It was Halloween where it brings the whole community out together. I was a pretty shy kid but a day like Halloween was a perfect excuse for me to hangout with other neighbors without being a stranger. I brought very few of my friends out, together dressed up as a zombie. Our face was still recognizable, but was still excited for all the candies we'll get; they rushed to other neighbors' houses to collect candies. But I still hesitated to ask for candies.

Soon later, I got tired of following my friends doing nothing and standing still under the porch light but I still wanted to enjoy this special day. So, I went back to my home to find a mask that looks like someone else. And then, I found one, it was extremely realistic that I got scared of but I still used it. As I went back out, all of the people near me were watching me strangely. I hated this atmosphere, I yelled my friends' name, and then I finally found them. But they didn't recognize me. At first, I thought they were joking around but they really seem like they don't know me. So I tried to take off the mask but as I tried it felt like my skin is tearing down with it.

Caged bird

By YUTING CHEN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yuting Chen is a 9th grader at Marianas High School. Chen's teacher is Ms. Leila Staffler.

Twitter, Twitter, my friends are singing,
Swish, Swish, wind is accompanying,
Ling, Ling, flowers are dancing,
Only me, Imprisoned in a cage.
Master always tells me:
There is a monster outside the cage
But they
Are playing with each other happily
If happiness comes at a cost,
I am willing to pay,
Please, Please,
Don't lock me in the cage,
Alone...
I want to hug the sky,
But I cannot,
I want to hear the world,
But I cannot,
I want to thank the sun,
For giving me warmth,
But I cannot,

I want to fly back to my hometown,
But I cannot.
"Go to sleep."
My master says.
In my dreams,
I saw my mother, and my sister.
I could not fly at first.
I practiced everyday,
But I failed every time.
Finally, my mother and my sister give up me,
They fly away...
They left me,
Alone...
I still wanted to fly in the blue sky,
I practiced, I failed, I fell onto the floor,
I sang, I danced, I tried to make myself happy,
But I'm lonely...
Finally, I can fly high in the sky,
I can sing with my friend,
But,
My master caught me,
And took me home,
I thought that was the beginning of my well-being,
It's NOT...



BEAUTIFUL MOMENT

ART: By Maya Vekhova
SCHOOL: Brilliant Star School
TEACHER: Ms. De Leon.

Untitled poem

By JUNGHYOUN PARK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jae Hoon Son is a 9th grader at Marianas High School. Son's teacher is Ms. Leila Staffler.

At age 5, the first year of my kindergarten, while my classmates were having birthday parties,
I stayed at home doing home-school.

At age 6, while my classmates were playing hopscotch,
I was learning piano.

At age 7, while my classmates were sneaking out to avoid brushing teeth,
I was the only one left in the restroom.

At age 8, the first year of my elementary, while the girls were braiding each other's hair,
I was the only one visiting the library at lunchtime.

At age of 9, while the girls were taking selfies,
I was the only one sitting next to them doing homework.

At age of 10, while the girls' attention was in makeup kits,
My attention was all in the textbook and report cards.

At age of 11, while the boys were all hanging out at internet cafe eating kimchi fried rice,
I was the only one buying cup noodles and bread at the convenience store.

At age 12, while boys were searching for their valentines,
I was searching for a part time job that I can do.

At the age of 13, the last year of my elementary, while my classmates are crying and passing out flowers,
I was just standing not to be seen by anybody.

At the age of 14, the first year of junior high, while my classmates introduced me cigarette,
I got bitten up by declining them.

At the age of 15, while my classmates wrote letters to each other during class,
I was the delivery and the one to be punished by the teacher.

At the age of 16, the last year of my junior high, while they are all coupled up in pairs kissing,
I was depressed with my diploma.

At the age of 17, the first year of my high school, while the teachers have bias of students,
I was none of it for them.

At the age of 18, while my classmates were choosing dresses and planning for their prom party next year,
I was closing my room door and said do not enter.

At the age of 19, the last year of high school, while everyone else was enjoying prom party,
I was crying at the corner in the restroom with a ripped dress.

No one noticed that I was bullied.

No one should care about others' lives and respect them.

No way. They should start paying attention to situations happening near them.

Flash Fiction Story

By YUTING CHEN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yuting Chen is a 9th grader at Marianas High School. Chen's teacher is Ms. Leila Staffler.

Long time ago, there was a witch in the forest. She always covers her face with a black cloak. Nobody knows how old is she, they only know she's the daughter of the old witch. Not like many stories, people hate witches. The old witch had saved people in this town, so the people are very grateful for this witch in the forest. Unfortunately, the old witch passed away several years ago, and the little witch became the guardian of the town. She inherited the magic talent of her mother, and learned a variety of magic with the old witch. And now, she is the guardian of the town.

The witch's favorite thing is to observe the dreams of the people in the town. One day, there's a stranger came to the town. He was tall and skinny, but he looked young. He wore a worn T-shirt and a pair of washed white jeans. The whole person looked very weak and pale. The little witch had never seen such a person, so that night, she entered his dream.

In his dream, there's full of bully and humiliate. The young boy was an illegitimate child of a duke. His brothers always bully him, and the duchess hate him. When the Duchess took advantage of the Duke's outing, the boy was sent to this remote town.

After observing his dream, the little witch was shocked. The life in the town was peaceful, all the residents had nothing to worry about, and their dreams were always well-being and full of happiness. But for this young boy, she couldn't even imagine what he had experi-

enced. Father's alienation, adoptive mother's aversion, brother's insult, maid's contempt...

So, she decided, to take care of the boy from then on. She always monitor the boy by her magic mirror, when the boy had nothing to eat, she used magic to transform food. When he had a nightmare, she used magic to appease him. When he was cold, she used magic to make a fire for him. Fortunately, the villagers are also very good to him, they often sharing his food with him, he also slowly started a small business, and his life became rich.

One day, the little witch was hurt by an herb, and she lost her magic temporarily and the young boy took her home. He took care of her. The little witch asked, "Why do you take care of me these days?"

"Because I have a benefactor who takes care of me when I was the most helpless, and I told myself, if there's somebody else need my help, I will do my best to help him or her," said the boy.

The girl asked, "Do you know who's your benefactor?"

"Many people told me there's a witch in the deepest part of the forest, and I think my benefactor is she. In our town, she's the only one who knows how to use magic in this town," answered the boy. "After you heal, I will go to the deepest part of the forest, and thank her for helping me these years."

The little witch was happy to hear this, but she didn't tell the boy that she's the witch who helped him during those days.

One month later, the little witch was healed, and the boy went to the witch's house in the forest with his gifts.

"Hello, is anybody here? I want to see the witch and thank her." The boy knocked the door and said.

"Yes. I'm here." said the little witch with a smile.

Message of Appreciation

†JOSE REBUENOG LIFOIFOI



We, the family of the late †**Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi**, also known as “**Joe**”, wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to all our relatives, friends and community members who comforted us during our time of great sorrow. You all have given us the strength to endure the loss of our Dearly Beloved through your thoughtfulness and heartfelt condolences. There are not enough words to express our gratitude to you all. We are so blessed that our beloved “**Joe**”, who is the pillar of our family, continues to be remembered and honored through all your outpouring love, thoughts, and prayers.

We would like to give special thanks to

Bishop Ryan Jimenez
Governor Ralph & Lady Dianne Torres
Lt. Governor Arnold & Lady Wella Palacios
Fr. Isidro Ogomuro
Fr. Neil Bullos
Fr. Jayferson Baldeovar
Deacon Tom Schweiger
Mr. Malcolm J. Omar
Mrs. Aida Benoza & Family
Sta. Remedios Parish
Dept of Fire and Emergency
Medical Services (DFEMS)
Dept. of Public Safety (DPS)
UMDA Board of Directors & Officers

ELand Group of Companies
Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)
Board Members & Employees
IT&E & Ms. Rose Soledad
FlameTree TV & Mr. Bob Coldeen
K.L. CARR Ent. Inc. & Mr. Richard Saludes
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(The Republic of Palau)
Pres. David W. Panuelo
(The Federated States of Micronesia)

Pres. David Kabua
The Republic of the Marshall Islands)
Speaker Tina Muna Barnes (Guam)
Mr. Clyde Norita & Logistic team
Rep. Joseph Lee (Pan) Guerrero
Mr. John Jones
Chief Justice Alexandro Castro
Mr. Rufo & Jenny Mafnas
The Refaluwasch Community
Palauan Community Assoc.
Various Government Agencies
& Private Entities
Numerous **Relatives and Friends**
from distant & near places

On his last day, our beloved “**Joe**” was surrounded by his dearest ones including his numerous relatives and friends to bid their last farewell as he ascended into the hands of our Dear LORD. Although we are overwhelmed with grief to let go of our dear “**Joe**”, your unconditional love, support and assistance throughout the funeral service is undeniably unparalleled.

For all that you have done for our beloved †**Jose**, we are forever thankful. We may not be able to repay all your kind sympathies for our family, but you will always be included in our thoughts and prayers. Your kind gestures will always be remembered with deep gratitude.

“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Un Dangkula Na Si Yui'us Ma'ase, Ollomway, Maraming Salamat po, Ke Kmal Mesaul, Thank You.
CECILIA HO LIFOIFOI, CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Nation

Police back off as peaceful protests push deep reforms

Calls for deep police reforms gained momentum as leaders in the city where George Floyd died at the hands of an officer pushed to dismantle the entire department.

Floyd's death sparked nationwide protests demanding a reckoning with institutional racism that have sometimes resulted in clashes with police, but many officers took a less aggressive stance over the weekend when demonstrations were overwhelmingly peaceful.

Two weeks after Floyd, an out-of-work black bouncer, died after a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee on his neck for several minutes, a majority of the Minneapolis City Council vowed to dismantle the 800-member agency.

"It is clear that our system of policing is not keeping our communities safe," City Council President Lisa Bender said Sunday. "Our efforts at incremental reform have failed, period."

It's not the first time an American city has wrestled with how to deal with a police department accused of being overly aggressive or having bias in its ranks. In Ferguson, Missouri—where a white officer in 2014 fatally shot Michael Brown, a black 18-year-old—then-Attorney General Eric Holder said federal authorities considered dismantling the police department. The city eventually reached an agreement short of that but one that

required massive reforms.

The state of Minnesota has launched a civil rights investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department, and the first concrete changes came when the city agreed to ban chokeholds and neck restraints.

On Sunday, nine of the Minneapolis City Council's 12 members vowed to end policing as the city currently knows it. Mayor Jacob Frey said he doesn't support the "full abolition" of the department. (AP)

World

AS POPE URGES CAUTION

World reaches 400K virus deaths

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—The confirmed global death toll from the COVID-19 virus reached at least 400,000 fatalities on Sunday, a day after the government of Brazil broke with standard public health protocols by ceasing to publish updates of the number of deaths and infections in the hard-hit South American country.

Worldwide, at least 6.9 million people have been infected by the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University, whose aggregated tally has become the main worldwide reference for monitoring the disease. Its running counter says United States leads the world with nearly 110,000 confirmed virus-related deaths. Europe as a whole has recorded more than 175,000 since the virus emerged in China late last year.

Health experts, however, believe that the John Hopkins tally falls short of showing the true tragedy of the pandemic.

Many governments have struggled to produce statistics that can reasonably be considered as true indicators of the pandemic given the scarcity of diagnostic tests especially in the first phase of the crisis. Authorities in Italy and Spain, with over 60,000 combined deaths, have acknowledged that their death count is larger than the story the numbers tell.

Brazil's government has stopped publishing a running total of coronavirus deaths and infections; critics say it's an

attempt to hide the true toll of the disease.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro went as far as to tweet on Saturday that his country's disease totals are "not representative" of Brazil's current situation, insinuating that the numbers were actually overestimating the spread of the virus.

Critics of Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly clashed with health experts over the seriousness of the disease and has threatened to take Brazil out of the World Health Organization, said the decision was a maneuver by the hardman-style leader to hide the depths of crisis.

Brazil's last official numbers recorded over 34,000 virus-related deaths, the third-highest toll in the world behind the U.S. and Britain. It reported nearly 615,000 infections, putting it second behind the U.S.

After Bolsonaro stoked his clash with health experts, Pope Francis cautioned people in countries emerging from lockdown to keep following authorities' rules on social distancing, hygiene and limits on movement.

"Be careful, don't cry victory too soon," Francis said. "Follow the rules. They are rules that help us to avoid the virus getting ahead" again.

The Argentine-born pontiff has also expressed dismay that the virus is still claiming many lives, especially in Latin America.

China defends coronavirus response

BEIJING (AP)—Senior Chinese officials released a lengthy report Sunday on the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic, defending their government's actions and saying that China had provided information in a timely and transparent manner.

China "wasted no time" in sharing information such as the genome sequence for the new virus with the World Health Organization as well as relevant countries and regional organizations, according to the report.

An Associated Press investigation found that government labs sat on releasing the genetic map of the virus for more than a week in January, delaying its identification in a third country and the sharing of information needed to develop tests, drugs and a vaccine.

National Health Commission Chairman Ma Xiaowei did not address the specific findings in the AP report, but said it "seriously goes against the facts." He added that there were many unknowns in the

early stage of the outbreak and that it took time to gather evidence and figure out the characteristics of the new virus.

"The Chinese government did not delay or cover up anything," he said. "Instead, we have immediately reported virus data and relevant information about the epidemic to the international community and made an important contribution to the prevention and control of the epidemic around the world."

He ticked off a series of government actions from a detailed timeline in the government report. The timeline says that China began updating the WHO on a regular basis on Jan. 3 and that the head of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention briefed the head of the U.S. CDC on Jan. 4.

U.S. officials have been critical of China's early response, adding to a deterioration of U.S.-China relations over trade and technology and pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE † DANIEL H. NIELSEN

Born on May 5, 1947 & entered the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father on May 29, 2020

Parents: †Howard Nielsen and Lois Dale, and Aileen and †John Lang

Parents In-Law: †Jose Sablan and †Concepcion Cabrera Deleon Guerrero

He will forever be missed and remembered in the hearts of his wife and children:

Wife: Lucia Cabrera Diguerrero Nielsen

Children: Leilani-Anne DLG-Nielsen / Cal Westergard and Larissa-Aileen DLG-Nielsen / Rory Franzen

Sisters and In-Laws:

†Patsy Lourdes Brandt / Don Brandt

Lorraine / John LeConte

Jaynel / Mike Coon

Genise / †Dale Gonzales, Ron Poplawski

†Gregorio / Ana Aldan Diguerrero

†Jesus / Hanolore Deleon Guerrero

†Maria / †Alejo Aldan

Soledad / †Bayo Ajuwon

†Vicente / Jessica Sablan Deleon Guerrero

Lydia / †William Lee, Alfred Rodriguez

Magdalena / †David Camacho

Margarita / Reid Olson

†Concepcion Genoveva / Francisco Pangelinan, Ronell Williams

Jose / Gabriella Deleon Guerrero

Susana / Donald Fleming

Antonio / Irene Deleon Guerrero

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. On Wednesday, June 10th, his remains will be brought to Kristo Rai Church at 8:00 a.m. for viewing and last respect. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

Your kind thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Lucy, Leilani and Cal Westergard, Larissa and Rory Franzen, his mother Aileen Lang and sisters Lorraine, Jaynell and Genise and all his in-laws.

Thank You and May God Bless us All.

Life & Style

JK Rowling's tweets on transgender people spark outrage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Harry Potter” author J.K. Rowling is facing hefty backlash after she posted a series of tweets about transgender people.

Rowling drew outrage Saturday on Twitter when she criticized an opinion piece published by the website Devex, a media platform for the global development community, that used the phrase “

people who menstruate.”

“I’m sure there used to be a word for those people,” the famous British author tweeted. “Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpund? Woomud?”

She continued with another thread speaking about the concept of biological sex.

“If sex isn’t real, there’s no same-sex attraction,” she tweeted. “If sex isn’t real, the lived real-

ity of women globally is erased. I know and love trans people, but erasing the concept of sex removes the ability of many to meaningfully discuss their lives. It isn’t hate to speak the truth.”

Rowling’s tweets caused a firestorm of responses from the LGBTQ community and others who were upset with her words. A Harry Potter fan group tweeted its disapproval of Rowling’s post and encouraged followers to donate to a group that supports back transgender women.

Rowling said she respects “every trans person’s rights to live any way that feels authentic and comfortable to them.” She went on to say she would march “if you were discriminated against on the basis of being trans. At the same time, my life has been



In a Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 file photo, author and Lumos Foundation founder J.K. Rowling attends the HBO Documentary Films premiere of “Finding the Way Home” at 30 Hudson Yards, in New York. AP

shaped by being female. I do not believe it’s hateful to say so.”

GLAAD issued a response on Twitter, calling Rowling’s tweets “inaccurate and cruel.” The advocacy organization dedicated to LGBTQ equality

then asked those upset by the author’s comments to support organizations that help black transgender people.

“JK Rowling continues to align herself with an ideology which willfully distorts facts

about gender identity and people who are trans,” GLAAD tweeted. “In 2020, there is no excuse for targeting trans people.”

Rowling’s representative has not responded to an email request for comment.

Chinese dissident Xu Zhiyong to be honored by PEN America

NEW YORK (AP)—Xu Zhiyong, a prominent Chinese activist and legal scholar detained by the government since earlier this year, is being honored by PEN America.



Xu

break. Xu had been in hiding since last December, but continued to attack Xi on social media, accusing him of covering up information about the virus and calling him unfit for his job.

“You didn’t authorize the truth to be released, and the outbreak turned into a national disaster,” Xu wrote in February, shortly before he was detained. “I don’t think you’re an evil man, you’re just not wise.”

According to friends, Xu faces charges for “inciting subversion of state power.”

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, PEN CEO Suzanne Nossel cited a “confluence” of factors in giving the award to Xu, from highlighting China’s record of human rights violations as the country’s influence grows worldwide to the dangers of official secrecy on public health.

The literary and human rights organization announced Thursday that Xu is this year’s winner of the PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, which recognizes those imprisoned for free expression and previously has been given to dissidents everywhere from Cuba to Turkey. Xu’s award comes on the 31st anniversary of the so-called Tiananmen Square Massacre, when Chinese soldiers shot and killed pro-democracy demonstrators.

The 47-year-old Xu has strongly criticized Chinese leader Xi Jinping for his handling of the coronavirus out-

Meghan speaks out on racial divisions in US

LONDON (AP)—Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has shared her sadness about racial divisions in the United States, telling students at her former high school that she felt moved to speak out because the life of George Floyd mattered.

Meghan told graduates at Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles that she wrestled with the question of what to tell them given the days of protests after the May 25 death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck in

Minneapolis.

She said her nervousness arose because her words would be “picked apart,” but she decided to speak anyway.

“I realized the only

wrong thing to say is to say nothing, because George Floyd’s life mattered,” she said in the virtual address Wednesday.

Floyd’s deaths sparked days of protests and riots in the United States.

The former Meghan Markle, who is biracial, said the unrest



Markle

reminded her of the riots that took place in her hometown of Los Angeles after police officers were acquitted in the video-taped beating of Rodney King in 1992.

“I remember the curfew, and I remember rushing back home and on that drive home, seeing ash fall from the sky and smelling the smoke and seeing the smoke billow out of buildings and seeing people run out of buildings, carrying bags and looting,” she said. “And I remember see-

ing men in the back of a van holding guns and rifles, and I remember pulling up to the house and seeing the tree that had always been there, completely charred. And those memories don’t go away.”

Meghan and her husband Prince Harry, who is a grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, are seeking a new life in California after stepping away from royals duties earlier this year. Having cut off any cooperation with the British tabloid media, they have sought to independently shape their image and speak out on issues important to them.

Triangle full of drama started as a crush in middle school

DEAR ABBY: In middle school, I had a crush on a boy. He didn’t even know I existed. Through a chance meeting many years later, he noticed me, but there were complications. He didn’t know how to tell his ex it was too late for her, and it became a love triangle. She saw the error of her ways and left. He and I have been together ever since. He still talked to her as they had been friends forever, but two months ago he stopped.

Meanwhile, through all of this, she has been cyber-stalking and manipulating me. She has created multiple Facebook accounts to torture me, sent me a video of my boyfriend doing sexual things and tried to make me believe it was current. (It was five years old.)

He cut off contact with her, and it was glorious until last week, when she helped him get back in touch with his son, whom he hasn’t seen in 10-plus years. I see it for the manipulation it is, but he sees it as her redemption. He doesn’t care that it hurts me, and he refuses to get rid of her.

She has slandered me all over Facebook, and I don’t think he should expect me to be OK with this or for him to even WANT a person like that in his life. He was AMAZING without her influence. How do I get him back to that person? I miss him so much!

ANGUISHED IN ARIZONA

DEAR ANGUISHED: Let me get this straight. This

man cheated on his ex with you, and you expected her to play fair? I wish you had mentioned why your boyfriend hasn’t seen his son in more than 10 years. It might have been the most interesting paragraph in your letter. Were he and his ex married? Just living together while she was “in denial”?

From where I sit, she is doing everything she can to fight for “her man.” He appears to have fences to mend with his son and with her, and you may have to accept it. It looks like he has already made up his mind about that, and unless you can accept it, your romance will be over. Only you can decide whether staying with this person is worth the drama.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law moved into the house next door three years ago. While I enjoy her company and like her as a person, I’m having difficulty expressing my frustration with one particular issue.

I have a beautiful hedge that separates our driveways and provides privacy. She regularly leaves her garbage can lids on top of my hedge as well as various other things she’s discarding (eventually). Today I noticed a large portion of the shrub showing what appears to be a chemical burn. (She has been known to use toxic chemicals to rid her yard of weeds, etc.) I don’t want to offend her, but at the same time, I’m struggling to find the words to properly address my desire for her to mind

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the property line. Help!

RELATED TO MY NEIGHBOR

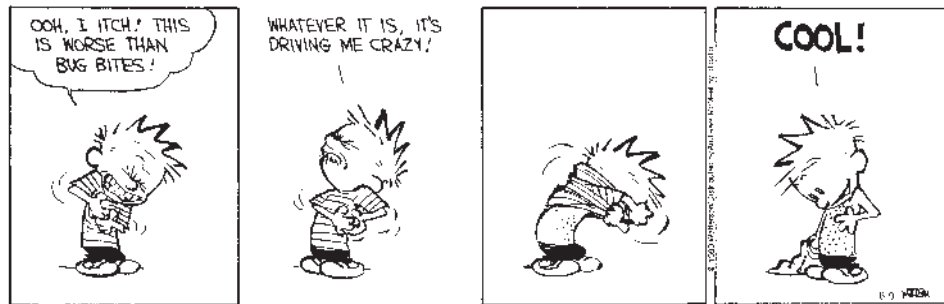
DEAR RELATED: This is something you should have addressed when the problem started. Approach her calmly and say something like this: “It bothers me that you leave your trash can lids and other items on my hedge. When you do, it makes me feel disrespected. Something you left on the hedge has damaged it. My hedge was expensive to install, and this is upsetting me. Please don’t do it again.”

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Prop for Sherlock
5 Comic Leno
8 Hospital extension
12 Flightless birds
13 — carte
14 Bassoon's kin
15 Soccer prize
17 Tenant's payment
18 NBC show since 1975
19 — pah band
20 Choir members
21 Charlotte's creation
22 Moreover
23 Roundish hairdos
26 Law
30 Indigent
31 Bottom line
32 Burden
33 Not in time
35 Goopy treat

DOWN

36 Parched
37 Mal de — strip
41 Shade
42 Enjoy Vail
45 Garr of "Tootsie"
46 Global conflict
48 Vogue rival
49 "A mouse!"
50 Cager Archibald
51 Cat call
52 Sample
53 Mellows

36 Immigrant's subj.
37 Esau's brother
38 Reunion attendee
39 Shriek bark
40 Band's globe-trotting gig
41 "A likely story!"
42 Taboo
43 Understands
44 Accomplishes
45 Santa — winds
46 Universal outlook
47 Knitting stitch
48 penser

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	P	A	C	H	N	A	L	A
L	O	U	S	I	I	C	W	E
U	R	D	U	R	A	J	S	E
R	C	I	G	N	O	A	H	U
A	E	R	B	A	G	E	L	S
R	E	D	R	O	C	K	N	A
E	P	I	C	A	I	L	R	I
A	E	S	O	P	D	E	B	A
D	E	S	O	T	O	E	T	S
K	A	H	L	U	D	D	E	H
J	E	D	I	A	O	L	E	L
E	R	I	E	T	A	I	D	I
T	A	D	S	E	F	T	V	A

Yesterday's answer 6-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mae Whitman, 32; Natalie Portman, 39; Johnny Depp, 57; Michael J. Fox, 59.

Happy Birthday: Look at the possibilities, map out a plan and refuse to let outside influences cause uncertainty or confusion. Know what your budget is, and make cost-efficient changes to ensure that you are successful this year. Learn from experience, and focus on what you know will result in greater security, happiness and peace of mind. Personal growth is encouraged. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 29, 33, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make positive changes to the way you handle money, how you present yourself to others and the way you deal with people who are heading in a different direction. Let go of the past, revise the present and embrace the future. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be under pressure to make changes that you may not want to make. A reserved response will be in your best interest. If you let your emotions take over, someone will take advantage of you while you are down. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Step up and do your part. Look at a situation logistically, and you'll find a way to work within the confines of whatever you face. Don't feel you have to follow others or put your ideas or plans on the back burner. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Place more emphasis on getting things done and obtaining the knowledge and experience required to move on to your next challenge. A

positive change will encourage you to broaden your outlook as well as your interests. Distance yourself from meddlers. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do what you need to do, but don't make unnecessary changes to your plans or your expenditures. Keep your life running smoothly, and stick to what works best for you. Don't follow someone heading in a direction you don't want to pursue. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pay more attention to what others do. You'll gain insight into how best to respond to a situation that has the potential to affect your status, reputation or position. Be ready to make a sudden but necessary move. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take hold of whatever situation you face, and make it work for you. Discipline, initiative and being ready to take action physically will ensure that you don't waste time or get caught in a verbal battle due to someone's stubbornness. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Say less and do more. If you give in to emotions or bend to someone's manipulative ways, you will not accomplish what you set out to do. Focus on what's important to you, and pursue domestic changes that make you happy. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do things your way, and avoid outside interference. Pay more attention to fitness, health and the way you present yourself to others. An important relationship will need nurturing if you have neglected your personal duties or responsibilities. Make amends. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Talk about the changes you want to make at home. A fresh start that encourages better health will lead to research and implementing a routine that is geared toward a strict fitness and diet routine. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what suits you best. If you follow someone, you will feel you missed out on something that may have inspired you to achieve personal growth. Stretch your imagination, and explore the possibility of doing your own thing. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what you must, but don't agree to something that may jeopardize your health or relationship with someone you love. Guard against being taken advantage of or being coerced into something detrimental to you financially, physically or emotionally. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are smart, adaptable and innovative. You are passionate and sensitive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		7	4			6		
6				5			1	
	2	9				7		
		2		5	8		7	
2							4	
8	6	1	3					
	9			7	5			
3			9				6	
	5			4	2			

Difficulty Level ★★

6/09

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	4	7	2	1	3	8	9	6
6	3	1	8	9	7	2	5	4
2	9	8	6	4	5	7	1	3
8	6	9	5	7	1	3	4	2
3	7	2	4	8	9	1	6	5
1	5	4	3	2	6	9	7	8
7	2	5	9	3	4	6	8	1
9	8	6	1	5	2	4	3	7
4	1	3	7	6	8	5	2	9

Big Truly Loved ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BRIAN DENNEHY (1938-2020)

Solution: 10 letters

T A Y A W S I L V E R A D O F
K H C I R E N O L L A T S R K
S O G T S E B G P R T B E C T
N E J I O B O A E S L T A A T
O M R A N R R F T A A J G T E
O O D D K K I N C E D L U O I
C R E Y R N A K H E O O L M L
O O E Y N I A L T M K A B O L M U
C N R E O I E U H A U S C Y J
I E J M S B S D R L T A U T U
M I U T A E T O N Y E F P S S
A L D Z R C N R E L L E S A T
G A I P A O K T N E C O N N I
E L T H G U O T I M E S Y C
E S H A D O W D S A L L A D E

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6/9

Actor, Alien, Ants, Best, Blacklist, Boy, Cocomo, Cormack, Cups, Dallas, Deirdre, Doubt, Dynasty, Elizabeth, Film, Gorky, Honor, Image, Innocent, Jack, Jennifer, Judith, Juliet, Justice, Kathleen, Knight, Kojak, Lake, Park, Presumed, Reed, Romeo, Safe, Sarah, Seagull, Seller, Semi-Tough, Shadow, Silverado, Stallone, Sway, Tag, Theater, Tommy, Tony

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Lakers ready to restart, play into October



LOS ANGELES—The Lakers made a strong statement about their championship hopes in early March when they defeated two of the NBA's top teams, the Milwaukee Bucks and Clippers.

Those raised expectations for LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the team of winning the franchise's 17th title will continue after a long break.

On Friday, the NBA Players Assn. voted to approve the Board of Governors' 22-team return-to-play scenario to restart the season after it had been halted in mid-March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Lakers and 21 other teams are scheduled to start playing July 31 at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. The last game of the NBA Finals, if the series went seven games, could be played Oct. 12, which would be about four months later than usual.

Being the last team standing and hoisting the trophy remains the goal of the Lakers, no matter when that time comes.

They put themselves in position to be title favorites after beating Giannis Antetokounmpo and the NBA-leading Bucks on March 6 at Staples Center and Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and a Clippers team that had won six straight on March 8 in a "road" game at Staples Center.

The Lakers had won 11 of 13 games before the league was shut down March 11 after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus. Two unnamed Lakers also tested positive.

Now the team is ready to regroup and resume the chase for a championship.

Even at 35, James is still a force. He leads the NBA in assists (10.6), is 11th in scoring (25.7), 22nd in rebounding (7.9) and seventh in player ef-

ficiency rating (26.08).

Davis is ranked ninth in scoring (26.7), tied for second in blocks (2.4), 17th in rebounds (9.4) and third in PER (28.25).

From keeping it lighthearted to being serious, James has been at the forefront during the Lakers' group chats about staying "mentally and physically prepared" as they approach heading to Orlando, according to people familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly.

The league informed teams they will be allowed to travel with about 35 people, including players, as a way to hopefully reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections. The Lakers will take 17 players, which includes two two-way players, to Walt Disney World, which is where teams will stay in mostly secluded hotels that are on the campus of ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex.

Players and staff are expected to report to their practice facilities around June 22 for COVID-19 testing, but it's not mandatory, according to people. The scheduled June 30 date to report is mandatory.

Teams can report to Walt Disney World around July 7 or 9 and will be in a 24-to-48-hour quarantine. Players also will be tested. Teams will start scrimmages against other teams July 23 to 29.

Families of the NBA players will be allowed to come to Orlando, but not until the second round of the playoffs.

The Lakers (49-14) had a 5½-game lead over the Clippers (44-20) for the best record in the Western Conference when play stopped.

"There will be a lot of focus for the Lakers and all the teams on basketball only, with the family not being there right away," an official for one NBA team said. "I think that they will be really in-tuned. I think the basketball will be



In this Jan. 31, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, right, dunks the ball during the second half of their game against the Portland Trail Blazers in Los Angeles.

sloppy in the beginning, but it'll be good as it goes along."

During an interview on TNT's "Inside the NBA" on Thursday, Commissioner Adam Silver referenced how the league might put in rules that

could keep coaches away from the sideline if they are at higher risk for COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, eight out of 10 deaths related to the coronavirus in the U.S. have been in

people 65 or older.

Lakers assistant coach Lionel Hollins is 66, but has insisted that he wants to be with the team for the eight seeding games and playoffs at Walt Disney World.

"Lionel wants to go. Lionel is in," one person said. "Those older coaches like Lionel believe it's going to be safe in Orlando."

Mini camps for playoff 'outcasts'

Nine months is a long time to go without playing a basketball game.

That's what the eight teams not going to the NBA season restart in Orlando—Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Golden State, Minnesota, and New York—face. And for all of those teams except the Warriors, developing young players to be the future core of the franchise is their goal, and no games from March to December will set that effort back.

Which is why the teams are talking about "mini-camps"—think college spring football—with two teams at least playing each other during those camps.

Those teams also want other "voluntary" team workouts and to start their training camps for next season earlier than the teams headed to Orlando.

The NBA isn't going to grant teams everything on their wish list, but there should be some allowance for organized mini-camps and scrimmages/exhibitions. This would be particularly important to New York (and maybe Chicago), where a new coach will be installing a new system and trying to start a new culture.

Those eight teams missed out on 17 or so "meaningless" games with their season put on hold, games that would have meant something in terms of developing young players and giving guys key minutes. The league should—and almost certainly will—take steps to allow those off-season camps and scrimmages, helping teams get their player development programs back on track. (AP/NBC)

SPAIN—World No. 1 Novak Djokovic claims it would be "impossible" to play the US Open this summer under what he deems "extreme" safety protocols currently being proposed for the grand slam tournament.

The men's ATP Tour and the women's WTA Tour are currently suspended until August 1, with Wimbledon cancelled and some tournaments coming after that date already cancelled too.

The US Open is due to begin at Flushing Meadows in New York on August 31, but there are serious doubts over the major going ahead due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis.

The USTA have proposed various ideas on how the

Djokovic worried about restrictions at US Open

tournament may happen behind-closed-doors, including having players travel to New York on charter flights from just a handful of cities. However some players have voiced concerns, with world number two Rafael Nadal saying earlier this week that he is not currently prepared to travel abroad for tournaments due to global health fears and quarantine restrictions.

Djokovic, a three-time winner of the tournament, has echoed Nadal's doubts about participation, in particular pointing to the safety restrictions imposed including a ban on travel to Manhattan and

only being allowed one person with him.

"I had a telephone conversation with the leaders of world tennis, there were talks about the continuation of the season, mostly about the US Open due in late August, but it is not known whether it will be held," the Serbian told Prva TV television. "The rules that they told us that we would have to respect to be there, to play at all, they are extreme. We would not have access to Manhattan, we would have to sleep in hotels at the airport, to be tested twice or three times

per week.

"Also, we could bring one person to the club which is really impossible. I mean, you need your coach, then a fitness trainer, then a physiotherapist."

The ATP and WTA will decide on the fate of the US Open on the 15 June.

Nadal not sure

If it weren't for a pandemic-caused postponement, the French Open would have been in Week 2 now, and Rafael Nadal might still have been in contention for a 20th Grand

Slam title. Instead, he's home in Spain, practicing lightly—and wondering along with everyone else in tennis whether the next Grand Slam tournament, the U.S. Open, will be held.

And if it is, would he play? "If you (ask) me today, today I will say, 'No,'" Nadal said with a shake of his head during a video conference call with The Associated Press and other wire services.

"In a couple of months? I don't know. Hopefully, 'Yes,'" he continued. "But we need to wait probably until we have more clear information about how the virus evolves and how the situation is going to be in

New York in a couple of months. Because, of course, New York has been one of the places that have been very strongly hit by the virus. So let's see."

Nadal thinks there are two key requirements for the U.S. Open to happen—and for tennis to resume anywhere: assurances about being protected from the coronavirus and having everyone be able to fly internationally.

"We can't come back until the situation is completely safe enough in terms of (health)," he said, "and fair enough in terms of all the players from every single (country) can travel to the tournaments under safe circumstances to compete." (AP/NBC)



Big hits, bad calls as MLB eyes new draft era



NEW YORK

(AP)—Baseball's amateur draft is about to enter the next phase of its ongoing development—same as all those young prospects picked every year.

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 version was ticketed for a move to Omaha, Nebraska, to coincide with the College World Series there. The idea was to stage a bigger television event with more elite players on hand, like Arizona State first baseman Spencer Torkelson and Vanderbilt infielder Austin Martin.

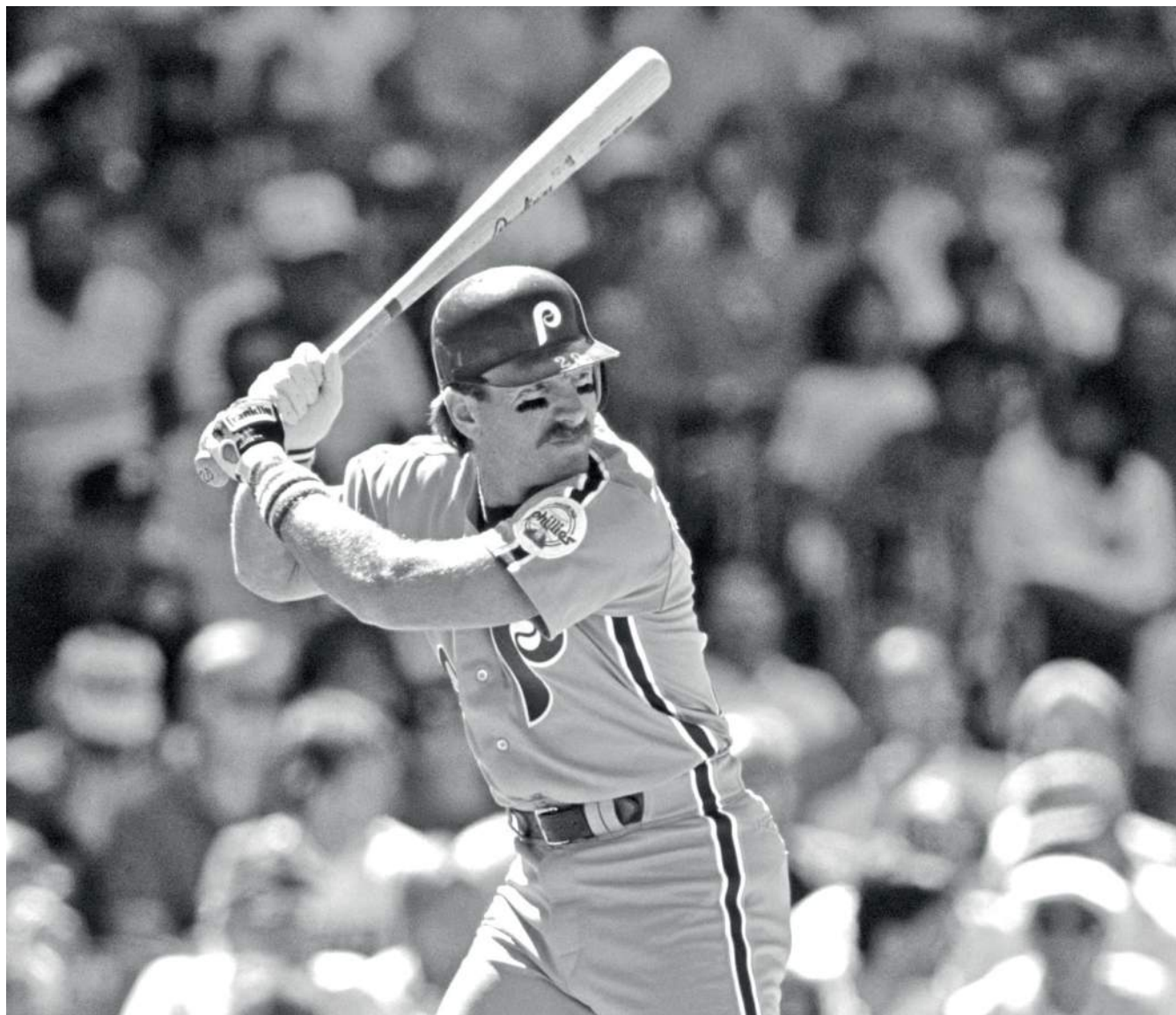
Of course, the COVID-19 outbreak scuttled the CWS and sent draft headquarters back to mostly empty MLB Network studios this week in Secaucus, New Jersey. Major League Baseball owners and players agreed to slash from 40 rounds to five, beginning Wednesday night with the first 37 picks. The remaining 123 will be made Thursday.

MLB Network and ESPN will both produce broadcasts Wednesday, the first time multiple networks will provide live coverage in prime time. Much like the NFL draft in April, remote cameras will show premier prospects and club executives in their homes or offices.

For months now, scouts benched at home with no prep games to attend have been relegated to evaluating video and meeting on Zoom.

"I've slept more this spring than I have in other springs, so I'm a little more rested. That'll help," Tampa Bay Rays senior director of amateur scouting Rob Metzler said with a chuckle. "It's just a different challenge."

Next year, teams can cap the draft at 20 rounds if they choose. MLB also has proposed cutting the minimum number of minor league affili-



AP
In this 1981 file photo, Philadelphia Phillies' Mike Schmidt waits for the pitch.

ations from 160 to 120, allowing each organization to drop at least one.

So with owners intent on streamlining farm systems, and the current labor agreement set to expire after 2021, it seems reasonable to think the June draft that began in 1965 might never look the same.

Perhaps 20 rounds (or even fewer) will become the norm.

At the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha.

A look back at some of the biggest busts, best decisions and pivotal moments that mark the evolution of Major League Baseball's amateur draft since center fielder Rick Monday was selected first

overall 55 years ago by the Kansas City Athletics out of Arizona State.

On second thought

Monday became a two-time All-Star who played 19 big league seasons and hit 241 home runs—plus a momentous one that put the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1981 World Series. But with the top pick in the second June amateur draft in 1966, the New York Mets swung and missed.

They went for high school catcher Steve Chilcott, who never made the majors. Next, the A's grabbed Hall of Fame slugger Reggie Jackson from Arizona State. Not only was

Mr. October the 1973 World Series MVP in Oakland's seven-game victory over the Mets, he also starred in three Fall Classics for the crosstown New York Yankees, leading them to two titles.

Ouch.

Other regrettable 1-2 choices: Matt Anderson (Tigers) over J.D. Drew (Phillies) in 1997; Matt Bush (Padres) over Justin Verlander (Tigers) in 2004; and Mark Appel (Astros) over Kris Bryant (Cubs) in 2013.

Back-to-back homers

Hall of Fame third baseman George Brett and Mike Schmidt came off the board

with consecutive picks early in the 1971 second round. Brett went 29th overall to the Kansas City Royals out of high school in California, then Schmidt at No. 30 to the Philadelphia Phillies from Ohio University.

"One of the most exciting times in my life," Schmidt said in an email last week.

The sluggers stayed connected at the hip for almost two decades, too.

Each won his league's MVP award in 1980, when Schmidt and the Phillies beat Brett and the Royals for their first World Series championship. Good friends, they retired neck-and-neck in a key (and

disputed) category.

"George and I finished with the same number of career RBIs—1,595. But when he realized that, he hired someone to go back through his career and find an RBI," Schmidt wrote. "He succeeded and now has 1,596. Anything to top me. My comeback is that I hit the roof of the Astrodome with 2 on base and settled for a single, that's 3 RBIs. ... I should have 1,598."

Slimming down

As recently as the 1990s, teams could keep making picks as long as they wanted in an unlimited draft.

Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza was famously selected during the 62nd round in 1988 by the Dodgers. Right-hander Clay Condrey lasted until the 94th round in 1996, when the Yankees took him with the 1,730th overall choice out of Angelina College in Texas. Condrey didn't sign with New York but eventually went 18-12 with four saves in 179 games for the Padres and Phillies, winning a World Series ring as a useful member of Philadelphia's 2008 bullpen.

A quick Google search identifies Condrey as the lowest-drafted player to reach the majors.

The draft was trimmed to 50 rounds in 1998 and 40 in 2012.

Welcome to the show

Long held by conference call at the commissioner's office in New York, the draft relocated near Disney World in Florida with afternoon broadcasts by ESPN2 in 2007 and 2008. The event went prime time in 2009 on the new MLB Network and has remained there since.



OHIO—Ohio

Gov. Mike DeWine approved a plan for Muirfield Village Golf Club to have at least some fans for the Memorial in July, which would make it the first PGA Tour event with a crowd since the tour was shut down March 13 by the coronavirus.

DeWine announced the decision Friday. He said on Twitter that casinos, racinos, amusement parks and water parks will be able to open on June 19.

"In addition, we received safety plans for the Memorial Golf Tournament to be held July 13-19," he wrote. "We are approving that plan."

The PGA Tour resumes its schedule next week at the Charles Schwab Challenge in

Maximum of 8K spectators expected at Memorial

Fort Worth, Texas. That is to be followed by the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head, the Travelers Championship in Connecticut and the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit. The tour said the opening four events would not have spectators.

The John Deere Classic was the first possibility for fans until it decided last week to cancel this year's event. It was replaced by another tournament, also to be held at Muirfield Village, only without spectators.

The Memorial said it would have more details later.

According to a Columbus Dispatch report, the tournament expects to allow up to 8,000 spectators on-site at any

given time, which would reportedly equate to 20 percent of the tournament's typical capacity. There will be no on-site bleachers, with each hole featuring "designated sitting or standing corrals" where a predetermined number of fans will be allowed to congregate.

Fans will be required to wear non-surgical masks, with the exception of certain recognized exemptions, and temperature checks will be conducted at every entrance as well as via handheld units on property.

In a statement, the Memorial praised DeWine and his staff and said it would work with state, county and city leaders to use the tournament "as an example of

how public gathering events can be developed and implemented with approved and accepted protocols in place"

Dan Sullivan, the tournament director of the Memorial, had been planning on different scenarios on returning from the COVID-19 pandemic depending on state and local governments.

Sullivan told the Greater Columbus Sports Commission last month about inserting chips into tournament badges to know how many people are congregating in different areas of the golf course.

DeWine said the Memorial, parks and casinos "have come up plans that reduce the

number of people, provide for sanitation, and in some cases, provide for one-way traffic.

"They are elaborate plans that we believe are consistent with protecting the public," DeWine said on Twitter.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott earlier this week approved another level of opening that would allow outdoor events, such as the Colonial next week, up to 50% capacity.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan told The Associated Press in an interview earlier Friday that the tour was sticking to its plan of no spectators the first five weeks of the return.

"We want to have a sustained return," Monahan said.

"If you think about a run to go through the FedEx Cup, we want to make sure week to week we're not taking on unnecessary risk."

Meanwhile, the betting odds for the PGA Tour's return include a familiar name at the top of the sheet.

World No. 1 Rory McIlroy headlines the field for the Charles Schwab Challenge, the first Tour event in nearly three months. It'll be a star-studded competition, with each of the four players closest to McIlroy in the world rankings also teeing it up at Colonial. But it's McIlroy who will begin the week as the betting favorite, listed at 8/1 according to oddsmakers at the Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook. (NBC/AP)

Trump questions NFL over BLM statement



N E W YORK—President Donald Trump has volleyed his inevitable response to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell for a statement pro-

nouncing Black Lives Matter and admitting the league was “wrong” in its handling of player protests.

Late Sunday night, the president took to Twitter and questioned Goodell’s statement, specifically asking if it

meant that the league would allow players to protest during the national anthem. Calling the practice “disrespecting” toward the U.S. and its flag in the tweet, the president has long been critical of the protests used by players to peacefully

call out racial inequality and police brutality in America.

The president also felt the need to elaborate on the word “kneel,” spelled out in all caps, adding “not to stand.”

“Could it be even remotely possible that in Roger

Goodell’s rather interesting statement of peace and reconciliation, he was intimating that it would now be O.K. for the players to KNEEL, or not to stand, for the National Anthem, thereby disrespecting our Country & our Flag?” Trump said.

Trump’s question had essentially been asked and answered in Goodell’s statement, in which the commissioner said the NFL would “encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest.”

Goodell released the statement on Friday.

“We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people,” Goodell said. “We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest.”

“We, the National Football League, believe black lives matter. I personally protest with you and want to be part of the much-needed change in this country. Without black players, there would be no National Football League. And the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of black players, coaches, fans and staff,” he added.

Trump poked at the NFL last week as well, specifically in the direction of New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees after his apology for calling protests during the anthem as disrespectful toward the American flag.

Trump said Brees should not have apologized, a statement to which Brees responded with a lengthy Instagram caption. In the post, Brees noted the protests have never been about the flag, calling such an accusation a distraction from the real issues faced by black communities.

Both Goodell’s statement and Brees’ apology are part of the aftermath of George Floyd’s death. NFL players and other athletes have been speaking out and joining protests across the country since Floyd’s killing, with many teams releasing their own statements condemning systemic racism.

Goodell’s admission that the NFL failed to listen to players like Colin Kaepernick was a direct response to a video posted by large group of NFL stars calling out the league’s failure to grapple with social issues. Just a day after the stars posted the video, Goodell was in his basement reading off each statement they demanded to hear. (NBC)

MOVE

From Page 20

2002. We had racers from Guam, Japan, USA, and the Philippines participate in all the races that took place there when the Offroad Association of the Marianas (ORAM) was running the show,” he added.

After their practice last weekend, Alvarez said MRA members and officials also had a meeting and discussed plans and developments in the group.

“There were around 10 of us with dirt bikes, mostly former racers and a couple new faces as well. And, there were another 10 or more family and friends and even some spectators around the course watching the action,” Alvarez said.

At the meeting, Alvarez and company talked about rebuilding the CowTown Raceway Park and getting the necessary approval from the government.

“We have already met with DPL and are now waiting for a meeting with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for their permission to move forward. Once DPL and DCCA come to terms with all the processing and steps required, we are hoping to get our track by the end of the year. Once we get the green light, we will build the track and start having Sunday races,” Alvarez said.

He added that MRA is looking at having a better raceway to meet the needs of the growing number of dirt bike enthusiasts on island and provide fans a nice venue where they can enjoy watching the action on the track.

“In the meantime, we are focused on giving our kids a safe place to ride and keeping them off the streets, roads, and highways, so we are thankful that DPL is allowing us to temporarily use the Kan Pacific field,” Alvarez said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cuki Alvarez discloses the development in Marianas Racing Association’s bid to revive motocross in the CNMI during a meeting last weekend at the Kan Pacific field.

SANTOS

From Page 20

and Field Championships and was named top athlete in the boys U18 age group last year. He also joined and won the Northern Marianas Athletics-organizer Turkey Trot Run and suited up for the Tinian Stallions that ruled the 2019-2020 Public School System Inter-scholastic Boys High School Basketball League following a thrilling 38-36 victory against regular season top finisher Mt. Carmel School early this year.

“It (basketball championship) was a huge accomplishment for me and a memorable gift from the players I’ve watched grow on this team. Ever since I’ve moved down to Tinian and played for coach Keith (Nabors), it has always been my dream to cut the net. It took four years, but it was one hell of a ride and I wouldn’t have it any other way,” said Santos, who used to live at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas before returning to Tinian.

Santos also treasures his time with the CNMI National Team when they competed in the Micronesian Games in Yap two years ago.

“My most memorable running competition would be the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap. It was my first time representing the CNMI in a huge event and I medalled for third place in the 1,500m setting a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian’s Tyler Santos proudly shows the medals he won in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald’s All Schools Track and Field Championships held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

new PR (personal best record). I’ve never felt prouder to stand on that podium,” said Santos.

The Tinian athlete clocked in at 4:39.48 in the 1,500m to join Guam’s Joshua Bustre (4:28.03) and Palau’s Christian Etpison Nicolescu (4:35.50) in the Top 3.

Santos, who will be enrolling at the Northern Marianas College before enlisting with the U.S. Air Force, hopes to

don the CNMI colors anew.

“I do look forward to hopefully be representing the CNMI again in the 2022 Micronesian Games and seeing old friends I’ve made along the way,” added Santos, who wishes to become a Combat Controller specialist in the USAF Special Warfare.

As he starts another career after accomplishing his mission as a student-athlete, the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, Tyler Santos, fifth left back row, poses with his fellow CNMI Athletics Team players and their coaches after arriving at the Saipan/Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

19-year-old thanked his family, coaches, teammates, and friends who supported him through the years.

“To my parents, thank you for always believing in me and pushing me to not only become a better athlete but also a better person. To coach Keith, coach Jayron Epity, coach Robin Sapong and to the rest of the NMA coaches that helped shape me into the athlete I am today. Thank you! To my best friend Charlene, thank you for always being one of my best supporters whether I’m winning or losing, you’re always there for me,” Santos said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tyler Santos (holding the net) celebrates Tinian Junior High School’s title win in the 2019-2020 Public School System Inter-scholastic Boys High School Basketball League with his teammates and coaches early this year at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

“To all my teammates, thank you for always having my back and joining me in this journey. To the friends I’ve made through sports, thank

you for the bonds and memories we’ve made together. To the people of Tinian, thank you for all the support, I’m proud to represent our little island.”



Lakers ready
to restart,
play into
October

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Big hits, bad
calls as MLB
eyes new
draft era

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20 TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Santos rises to challenges



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian's Tyler Santos competes in the
1,500m run during the Oceania Micro-
nesian Regional Championships 2018 at
the Oleai Sports Complex.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Tinian's Tyler Santos, front, beats a Kagman High School player
in this rebound play during the Public School System Interscholastic
3x3 Basketball Tournament held last year at the Koblerville
Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

In the CNMI sports community that has been dominated by athletes from Saipan, Tinian's Tyler Santos has proven he can keep up with the cream of the crop.

After joining sprints races when he was in seventh grade, Santos blossomed to become a top middle distance runner, earning him a spot on the CNMI National Team that competed in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap and the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018, numerous victories in local races, and a ticket to the Australian Cross Country Championships/ Oceania Cross Country Championships.

Santos, who graduated at the Tinian Junior and Senior High School student last week, recorded these accomplishments despite the challenges he faced as an athlete coming from Tinian.

"Coming from Tinian, it's a small island and I know

it's tough to get the drive and motivation to push myself because of the lack of competition here, but I learned that the only real competition that matters the most is myself," said Santos.

"With track, whenever I was prepping for a big upcoming event, I was always training on my own, doing research and looking up at different exercises and techniques, and making training plans. It was already tough training without an actual track and field to run on, but I just had to work with what I had and make the most out of it," the Tinian pride added.

Santos was a regular at the Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track

See **SANTOS** on Page 19



Move to revive motocross gaining ground

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Racing Association's bid to revive motocross in the CNMI is making progress, as the group has found a venue for its races

and has drawn support from a government agency.

According to MRA official Cuki Alvarez, the Department of Public Lands has allowed them to use a portion of the field at the Kan Pacific property in Marpi (near the swim-

ming pool) for their "raceway."

"We set up a temporary course at the Kan Pacific field right by the former pool so we can conduct our riding and practicing in a controlled and safe environment under club rules and regulations,"

said Alvarez.

"It was here at this exact same place at the Kan Pacific where we held our international Liberation Day Motocross Challenges from 1998-

See **MOVE** on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left (back row), Marianas Racing Association members and officials Charles Cepeda, Cuki and Mari Alvarez, Shane Alvarez, Bridgette Camacho, Steve Sablan, Henry Camacho, Arthur Jheben, Dave Celis, Con-Joel Camacho, and Kier Agda join (front row) Keenon Togawa, Alverick Alvarez, and Joseño Alvarez for a group photo after their meeting last weekend at the Kan Pacific field.